

# American Girl

September/October 2007

\$4.50

Fix Your  
**Friend**  
Fights

Halloween  
**Doodles**  
You Can Do

Make Tiny  
**Totes**

**Cool!**  
Throw a  
groovy '70s  
party!





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## See AG Online!

Visit [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine!

Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.



## Super '70s Party

Throw a costume party that's a blast—from the past!

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## I ♥ My School!

You won't believe the things these girls get to do.

**15**





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Follow Your Inner Star™



## Real Friend Fights

Readers share how they fought—and made up—with friends.

22



## About the Cover

Meet Amber K., age 11.

We asked her about school.

**Favorite part about going back to school?**

Being able to see my friends again.

**Favorite school supply to buy?**

A backpack

**Favorite after-school activities?**

I do dance. Right now I'm doing lyrical and hip-hop.

**Favorite way to relax after school?**

I listen to music.

Amber K.

For more about the making of this issue, go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 49.



## Tiny Totes

Make cute holders for all your little doodads.

12



## Letters from You



### Green Girl

I really liked Julia U.'s recycling story from the "Green Girls" article in the May/June 2007 issue. I am on the student council at my school, just like Julia. We have been recycling for two years now! It feels great to help the environment.

*Meghan S.*

Age 11, Maryland



### Crazy for Color

I totally enjoyed everything in the May/June rainbow issue! I used almost every idea in the magazine to brighten my room, my house, and my attitude. Please consider making another rainbow issue in the future.

*Lauren G.*

Age 13, Virginia

### Pretty Poster

Thank you so much for the color-in poster that was included in the May/June issue of *American Girl* magazine. My sister and I had a lot of fun coloring it. We are going to hang up the finished poster in our clubhouse for decoration. Thanks again!

*Paige T. :-)*

Age 12

### Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

#### **American Girl magazine**

8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to [readermail@americangirl.com](mailto:readermail@americangirl.com). Either way, be sure to include your first and last name and your birth date. We can't print every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

### Official Rules

1. Employees of American Girl and its affiliates and their families are not eligible.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by October 15, 2007. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed. **A parent or guardian must sign the entry.**
4. 100 winners will be chosen at random.
5. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
6. Void where prohibited by law.



### Win It!

On page 27, you'll read about our latest Win It! contest. To enter, send a postcard by October 15 with your first and last name and address to:

**Win It!—S/O 07**

**American Girl magazine**  
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**Winner of a 2006  
Parents' Choice  
Silver Award**



The National  
Magazine  
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**American Girl®**



# Girls

E X P R E S S

## Knack for Knitting

We caught up with Phoenix B., a 14-year-old Virginia girl who has started a business designing knitted clothing and accessories such as sweaters, arm warmers, dancewear, and bags.

**AG:** How did you start your business?

**Phoenix:** I entered a shawl that I had designed into an art show, and I won first place. Everyone wanted to buy the shawl. That made me think that I could turn my hobby into a business, so I designed more shawls in different shapes and sizes and sold them in stores and on my Web site.

**AG:** What advice would you give to girls who want to learn how to knit?

**Phoenix:** Girls can go to a knitting store and ask about knitting classes, and buy yarn and the right pair of needles. The first thing that you knit will look like my first hat—seriously homely and frumpy, something that you will put in your drawer and hope that nobody sees. But don't get discouraged. The more you knit, the better you'll get.

**AG:** What's your favorite color of yarn?

**Phoenix:** I like turquoise and red. I don't like orange and green.

**AG:** What one thing could be made from yarn that normally isn't?

**Phoenix:** A horse saddle. I plan to make a felted wool saddle when I get my horse someday.



Phoenix's fingerless gloves are almost as soft as her dog, Galina.



Phoenix created this bag to raise money to buy a wheelchair for a girl who needed one.



## Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

### Core Truth



October is National Apple Month. Ever wonder why apples float in water? About one quarter of an apple's volume is air. That makes the apple less dense than water, allowing it to float. The air also gives off that sharp "crack" that you hear when you bite into a fresh apple.

### Buzzword



### tchotchke

**How to say it:** CHOCH-kuh

**What it means:** a small and inexpensive trinket, souvenir, or ornament

**One way to use it:** Brianne added the tchotchke that she bought on summer vacation to her collection.



The buzzword is tucked into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 44.

### Find It!



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!



# Get Ready!

You can solve any sticky situation with this school survival kit.

Keep it in your locker, desk, or backpack—and you won't have to worry about anything but tomorrow's pop quiz.

**Here are some items to include:** \$5 in an envelope, a blank thank-you note, comb, lip balm, toothbrush, double-stick tape (to fix clothing), nail

clippers (if allowed), pencils, hair elastics, clothing stain wipes, dental floss, safety pins, spare socks, and hand sanitizer.



## True Story

Chandler Y. has an amazing tale about her summer vacation.

Dear American Girl,

It was just a regular summer day. My little sister, Olivia, suggested that we open a lemonade stand with our friends. Business was great. Lots of people were outside, hoping to see the president's motorcade—everyone knew that he was in town. Finally, the president did go by.

After a while, we saw lots of Secret Service security officers. Some were standing near us, but others were hiding behind houses. One of them told us that the president might stop to get some lemonade. We were shocked when the motorcade zoomed up. The president got out! He spent about ten minutes with us, posing for photos and signing autographs. The president bought five glasses of lemonade, but soon he had to say good-bye and race off to the airport.

What started out as a boring day turned into something great. I don't think I will ever forget it.

Sincerely,

Chandler Y.  
Age 13, West Virginia



The girls met the president and their congresswoman!

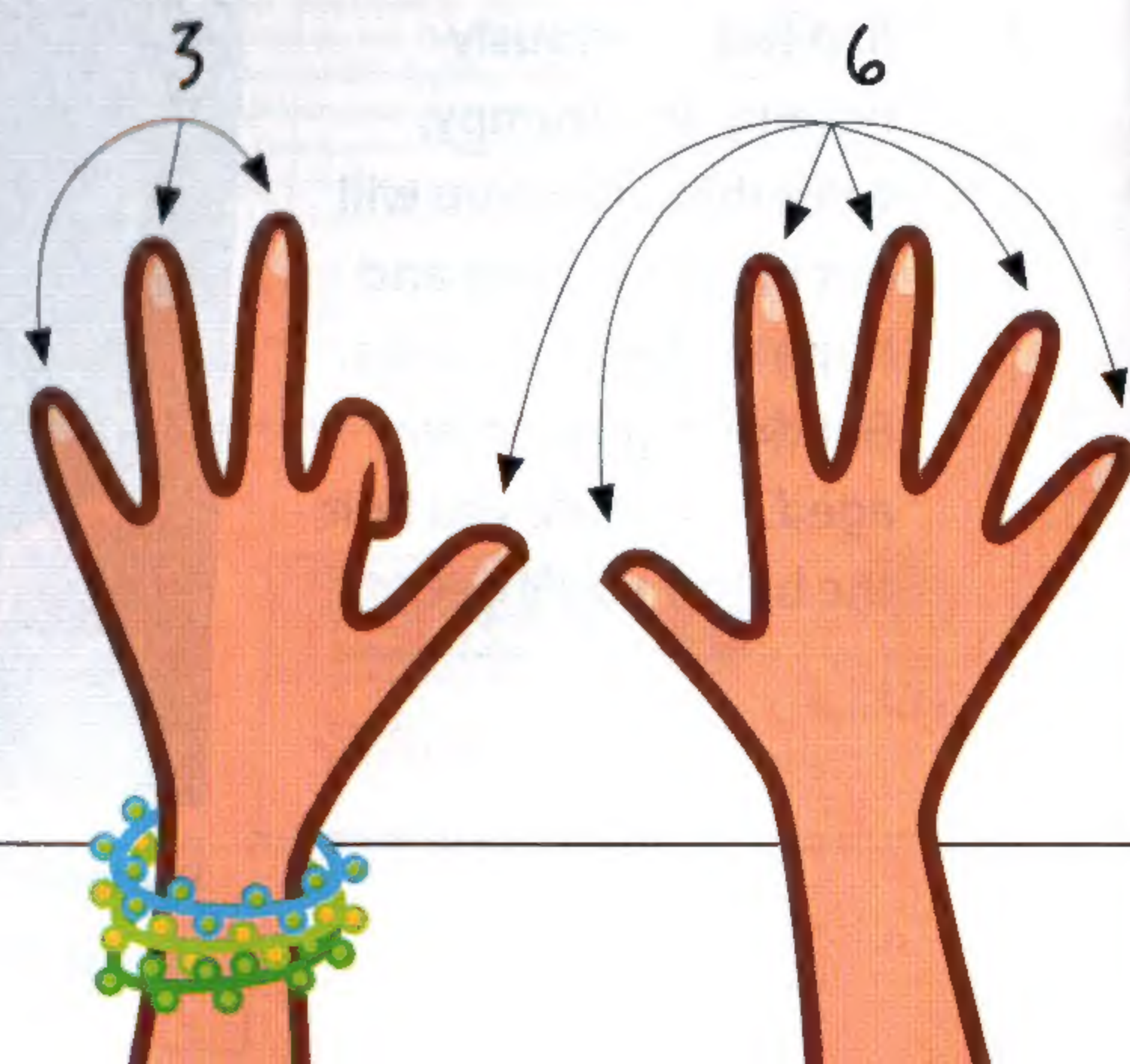
## Hand-y Calculator



Lydia F., age 9, of Massachusetts sent us this trick for remembering the times tables for 9. It works!

times tables for 9. It works!

1. Spread both of your hands in front of you.
2. Pick a multiplication problem that has a 9 in it—say,  $9 \times 4$ .
3. Using the 4 in the problem, count four fingers from the left, and put down the fourth finger. That finger is the "divider."
4. There are three fingers to the left of the divider and six fingers to the right. Those two numbers show you the answer to the problem— $9 \times 4 = 36$ .





# AG Art Gallery

This artwork bow-WOWED us!



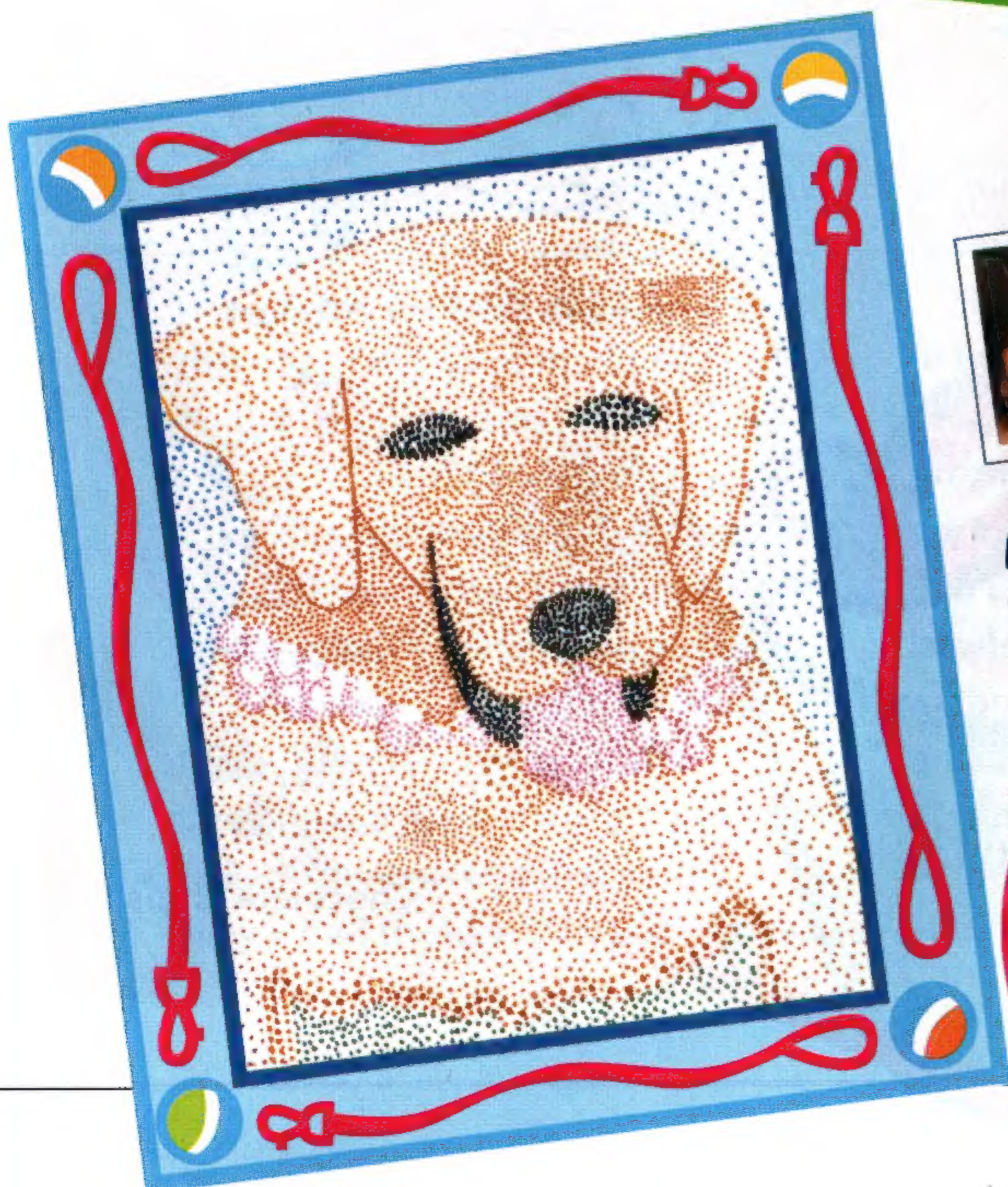
Vicky C.  
Age 12, New Jersey



Leigh O.  
Age 13, Georgia



Alana Y.  
Age 13, California



We're looking for **artwork** for our gallery. Send color **copies** of your original artwork to the address on page 2. Sorry, we can't return **entries**.

Cut out your answer and mail it to the address on page 2.

## Creative Corner



Pencil Poms

Cut out card. Flip over for directions.

## AG Poll

In our March/April issue, we asked you about your favorite spot to watch a movie. Here's what you said:



### Next question:

If you had to sing, where would you want to do it? Circle your choice.

- \* In a huge stadium
- \* On a TV talent contest
- \* At a school assembly
- ☒ \* At a karaoke party





## Pencil Poms

For each **pom**, cut a piece of **fleece fabric** 10 inches by 3 inches. Cut fringes about 2 inches in length and 1/2 inch in width along the long edge of the fleece. Place a **Glue Dot** (available at craft stores) toward the top of the **pencil**. Tightly wrap fringed fleece around the pencil to create the pom. Secure end of fleece with another Glue Dot. Use school colors to show your spirit!

Photo: Salisbury Studios

## Halloween on the Double


Want to dress up with your best friend? Ask a parent to help you make these quick and easy costumes for two.

### Roll a Double

 Paint two large cardboard boxes to look like dice. Ask an adult to cut holes for your heads and arms. Wear over matching tops.


**You are: Pair of Dice**

### Picturesque Pair

 Using string, attach two large pieces of cardboard at one end. Attach a large art poster to one piece—that's the painting. Get a smock and paintbrush for the other person to wear.

**You are: Artist and Art**

### Two Hearts

 Find two matching T-shirts. Using colored tape, put an X on one shirt and an O on the other. Buy Hershey's Hugs and Kisses to hand out to others.

**You are: Hugs 'n' Kisses**



## Help Wanted!

Got a job? We want to hear from you!

Do you run a stand at a farmers' market, help out at your mom's flower shop, or write a column for your newspaper? Or have you even started your own business? Tell us how and why you got your job, and explain what's fun—and what's hard—about it.

**NOW!**

Send your letter along with your name, address, and photo to the address on page 2.

## Lunch Box



A banana split for lunch?  
Sounds a-peel-ing!

**Dig in!**



Banana



Yogurt



Cereal



Sliced Fruit



Chocolate Chips



# Get Rolling

October is National Roller-Skating Month! To celebrate, set up a skating obstacle course.

Choose a flat, empty paved area in your neighborhood. Make sure everyone has safety equipment, including helmets. Envision your course before setting it up, and then use these ideas to get going.



## Shining Star

When Lily B. was new to her town in Alaska, she and her brother loved visiting the post office. The workers there kept big glass bowls of candy on the counters, and the small sweets could brighten any day.

Soon, though, the bowls had disappeared. When Lily asked a postal employee why, the woman said that many people took huge handfuls of the candy. It had become too expensive for workers to keep giving away sweets, so they'd had to stop. "I thought it was

unfair," Lily said. "So I decided to do something about it."

Lily used her allowance money to buy a huge seven-pound bag of candy. The 12-year-old and her brother made signs asking customers to take only one candy apiece, and Lily's dad let her have some old bowls that had been sitting in the garage. "I brought the candy, signs, and bowls to the post office," Lily remembers. "When I told the man working there what I was doing, he was delighted. And so was I." ★



**You can shine, too.**

Got more Halloween candy than you should eat? Put it into a fun bowl, make a sweet sign, and send it to work with Mom or Dad.



# Creative Classes

Pick a schedule that fits your personality! Wouldn't it be cool if these classes, dreamed up by AG readers, were real?

Students who study nature at one school in Florida use a huge wooded area as their classroom.

## Designed by You

**Room Décor:** Make dramatic changes to your bedroom with crafts and decorating tips. Express yourself!



*Christian J.*  
Age 13, New Mexico



**Birthday Bonanza:** Plan the perfect birthday party and explore awesome party themes.



*Briana P.*  
Age 11, New York



**Perfect Perfumes:** Learn how to make your own perfume from scratch.



*Tara W.*  
Age 11, New Jersey



## Daring Girl

**Travel Class:** Each month, learn about a new place—and then travel there!



*Anna H.*  
Age 12, Kentucky



**Adventures Ahead:** Go mountain climbing, white-water rafting, hiking, and camping under the stars.



*Molly P.*  
Age 13, Ohio



**How to Be a Spy:** Learn about sneaking around and using spy gadgets.



*Katie W.*  
Age 9, Washington





## Starring You

### How to Make a Movie:

Team up with a cast and crew to film a movie. Share it with the class when it's completed!

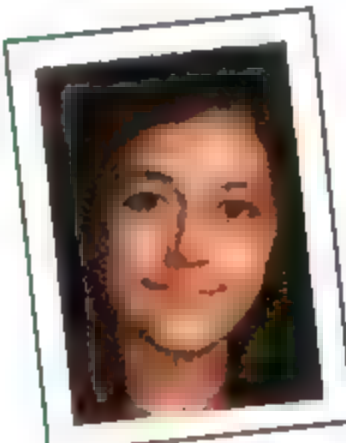


**Madeleine F.**  
Age 11, New York



### Publisher's Paradise:

Publish your own book, magazine, or newspaper that will be distributed to the whole school.



**Emma D.**  
Age 12, Missouri



**Karaoke Kids:** Learn how to sing and how to work a karaoke machine.



**Olivia W. & Haley N.**  
Ages 9 and 8, California



## Caring Girl

**Pet-Care Class:** Learn all about how to care for a new animal each month.



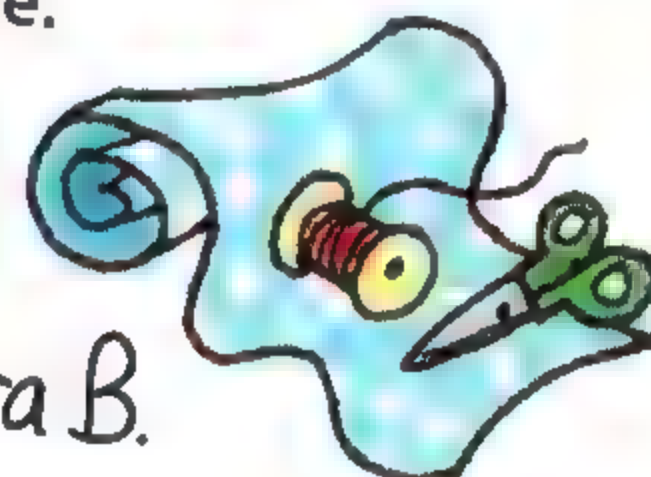
**Megan M.**  
Age 12, Canada



**Stuffed Animals:** Design, sew, and stuff a fuzzy friend for someone you love.



**Laura B.**  
Age 12, Iowa



**Friendship 101:** Keep great friendships, welcome new friends, and resolve friendship fights.



**Sarah S.**  
Age 11, Texas



## New Contest: Vending Machine Visions

Vending machines are usually for snack food or candy, but what if there were machines that sold jokes, bagged lunches, or hair accessories? If you could sell anything in a vending machine, what would it be? Tell us why it's a good idea!

Send a drawing or a description to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date. Deadline: October 10, 2007. Winners will appear in the March/April 2008 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.



# The New Girl

These readers share stories of how easy and fun it can be to welcome a new girl at school.



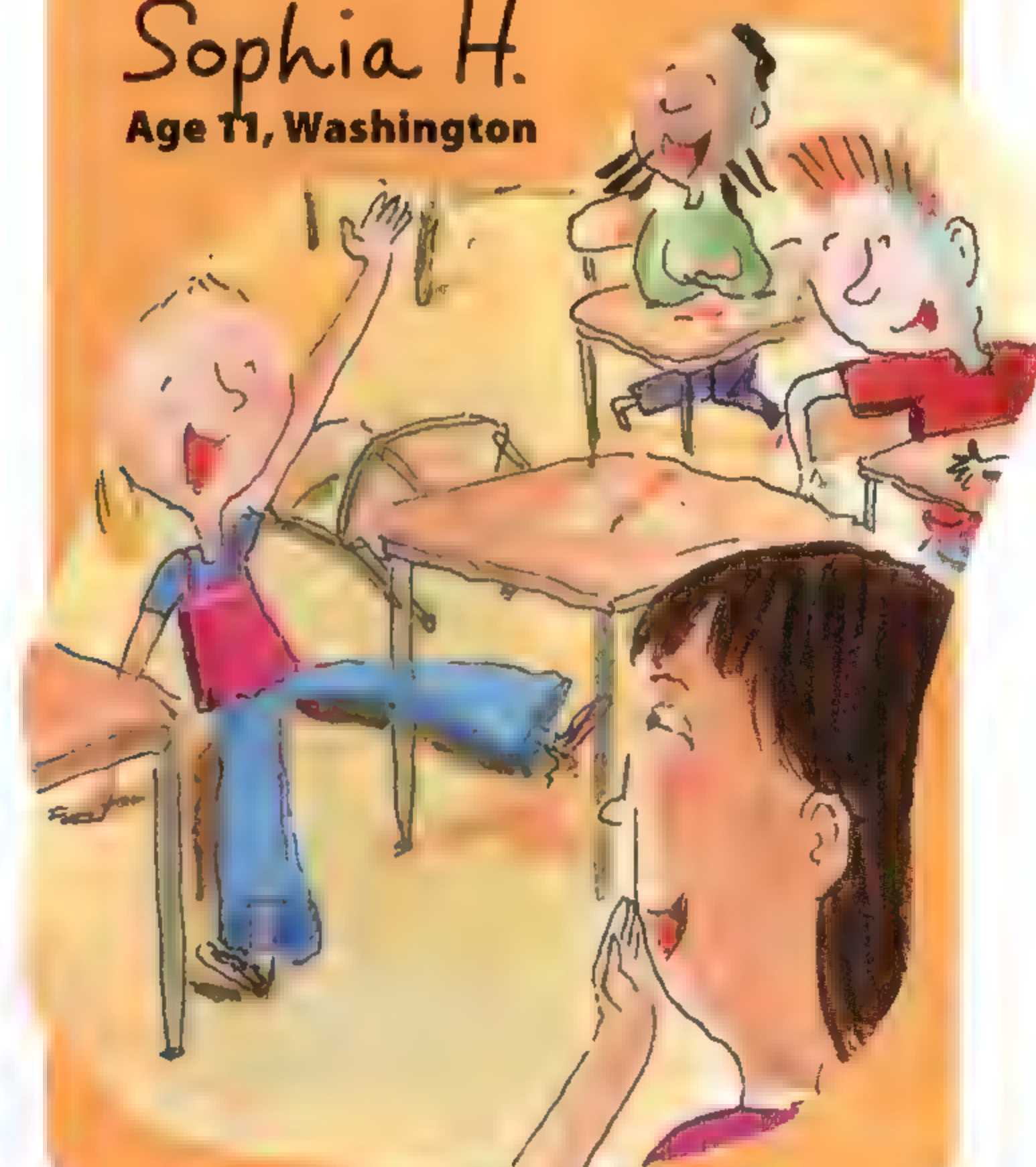
There was a shy new girl in my sixth-grade class. I asked for her phone number and called to see if she and her mom would like to go out to lunch with me and my mom. She agreed, and we got to know each other really well. I helped her feel comfortable, and now we're best friends.

*Taylor E.*  
Age 13, Ohio



My teacher asked if anyone would like to give the new girl a tour of our school. The new girl looked really scared, so I raised my hand. I was so excited when the teacher picked me that I fell out of my chair! It made the new girl laugh. We ended up becoming great friends.

*Sophia H.*  
Age 11, Washington



At lunch, I decided to eat with the new girl because she was sitting by herself. It felt good to sit with her, and I answered her questions about the upcoming science fair. My principal even noticed what a good friend I was!

*Emily G.*  
Age 11, Michigan



This year, I was the new girl at a public school. Before that, I was home-schooled my whole life. My advice for new girls is to join an after-school activity. It's a great way to find friends who share the same interests as you.

*Abi K.*  
Age 11, Pennsylvania

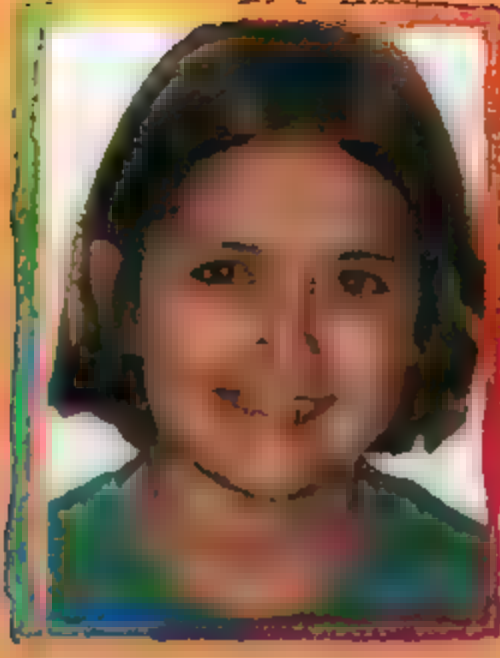




Even if a new girl isn't in my class, at lunch I say,

"Hi! Welcome to our school," and I'll tell her my name and teacher. A new girl always appreciates kindness on her first day.

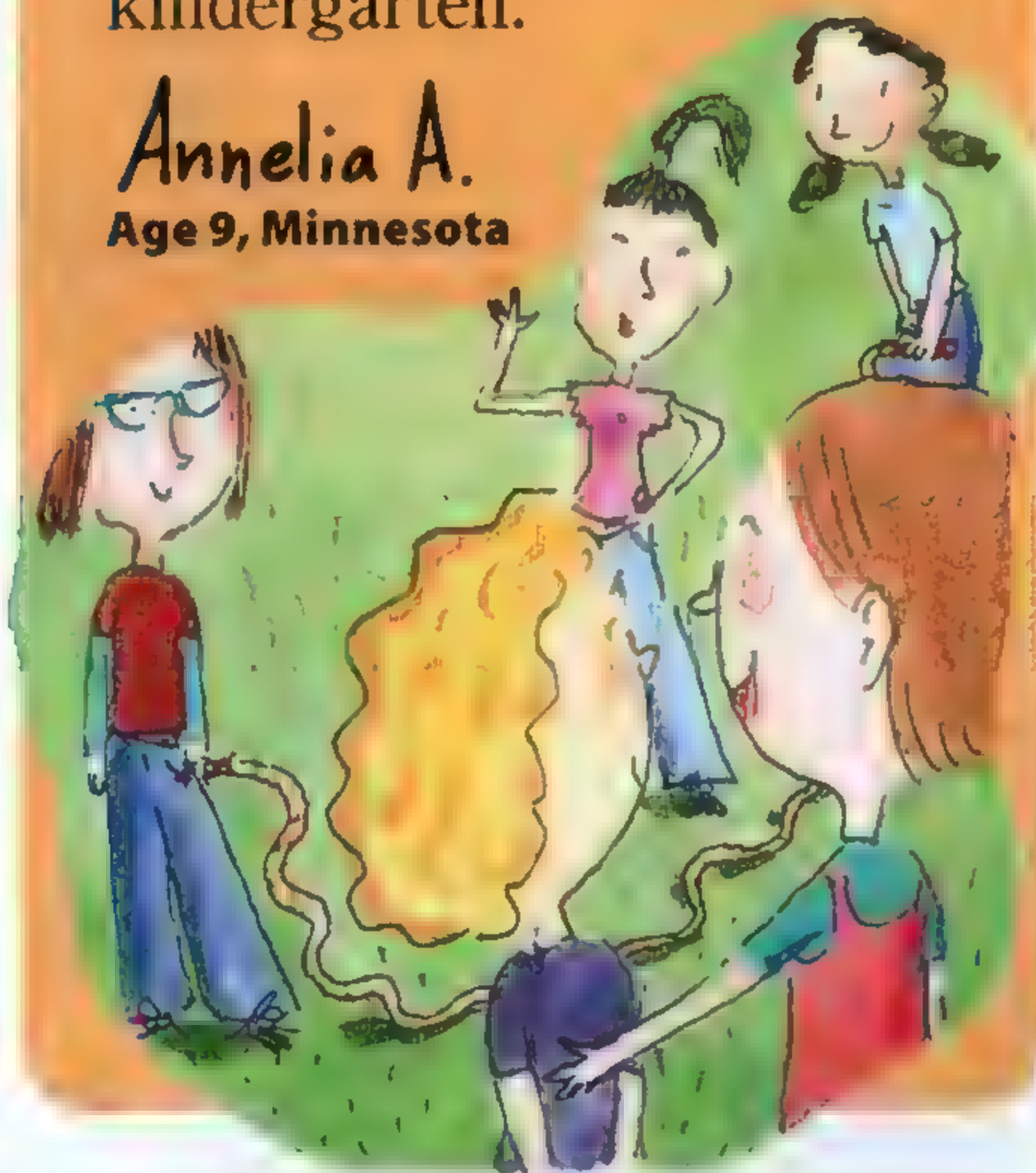
*Kristin G.*  
Age 11, New York



At recess, even though I was nervous, I walked up

to the new girl and started introducing everyone to her. After a couple of months, she knew everyone! It was as if she had been at my school since kindergarten.

*Annelia A.*  
Age 9, Minnesota



## Speak from Your Heart

**Next subject: Embarrassing family moments. Do you laugh it off or run the other direction when Mom says, "Bye-bye, Cupcake!" in front of your whole soccer team, or when Grandma gives you underwear for your birthday? Does your mom, dad, brother, or sister embarrass you? How do you respond? Send your answers, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on page 2. Deadline: October 10, 2007. Some answers will appear in the March/April 2008 issue. ★**

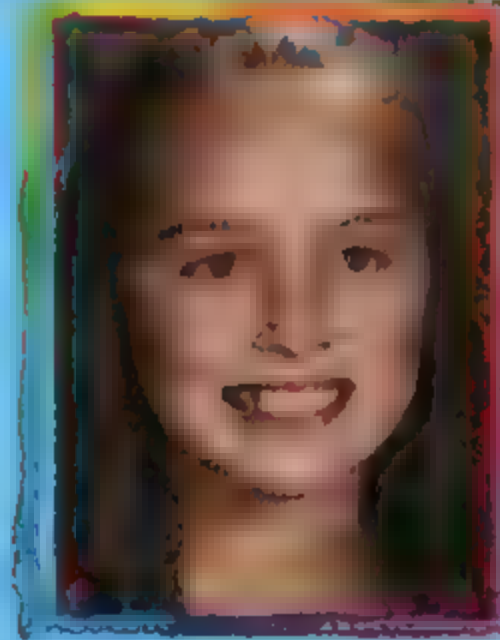
Big Truth  
**A little smile or a big hello goes a long way.**



When a new girl came to my class, a lot of people *told*

her to hang out with them. It's best to be welcoming but not pushy. My friends and I waited until recess and *asked* if she wanted to join us. She agreed!

*Hadiya D.*  
Age 10, Michigan



I introduced myself to the new girl in our class

when no one else did. She was really nice! I learned that you don't need to have a big celebration for the new girl—just make her feel comfortable.

*Melissa M.*  
Age 12, New Hampshire







Use double-sided tape to attach patterned paper to the tin.



Cover the tin with ribbon stripes.



Search craft stores for things to use as clever clasps, such as buttons or scrapbook embellishments.



Look for fun alternatives to ribbon, such as pom-pom fringe and rickrack.





# Tiny Totes

These **small** totes make perfect places for **little** trinkets.



Hang a small charm  
on your tote.





# How to make a tiny tote:

## YOU WILL NEED

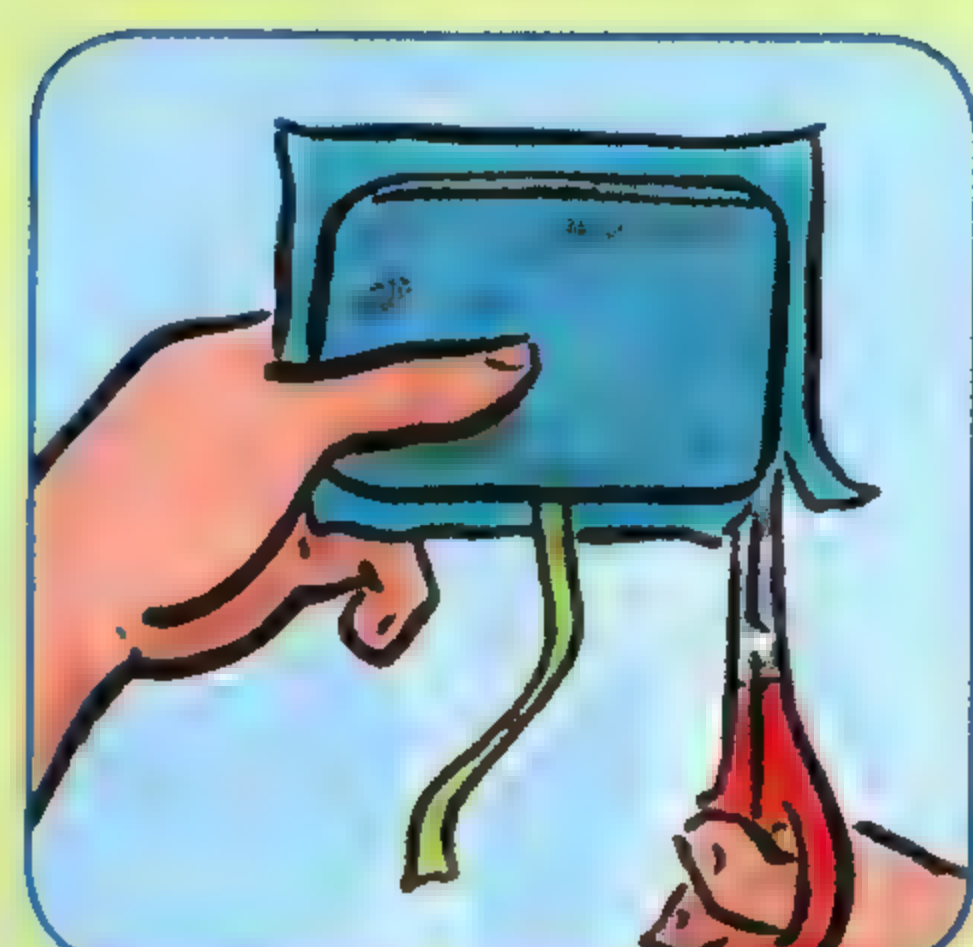
- \* A clean candy tin (any size will work)
- \* Felt
- \* Scissors
- \* Tacky glue
- \* Ribbon (1/2-inch wide or narrower)
- \* Magnet
- \* Appliqué



**1** Cut two pieces of felt slightly larger than lid of candy tin. Cover lid with glue. Place one felt piece on lid. Press gently and let dry. Set other felt piece aside.



**2** Glue small piece of ribbon to top center back of tin. This will be part of the clasp. Make sure ribbon goes across the side of the tin that opens.



**3** Cover back of tin (and end of ribbon) with glue, and place second piece of felt on top. Press gently and let dry. Trim extra felt on both lid and back.



**4** Apply glue around all sides of base of tin (not the lid). Starting at the top, lay piece of ribbon (about 20 inches in length) along the edge and press gently. Continue pressing ribbon down around edge of tin. Do not trim excess ribbon.



**5** Apply glue to end of ribbon and attach to other side to create handle.



**6** Place magnet on tin where you want clasp. Glue end of ribbon to magnet (trim if necessary). Attach appliqué on top of ribbon to finish tote. Let dry completely. ★

Make a label to identify your tote.



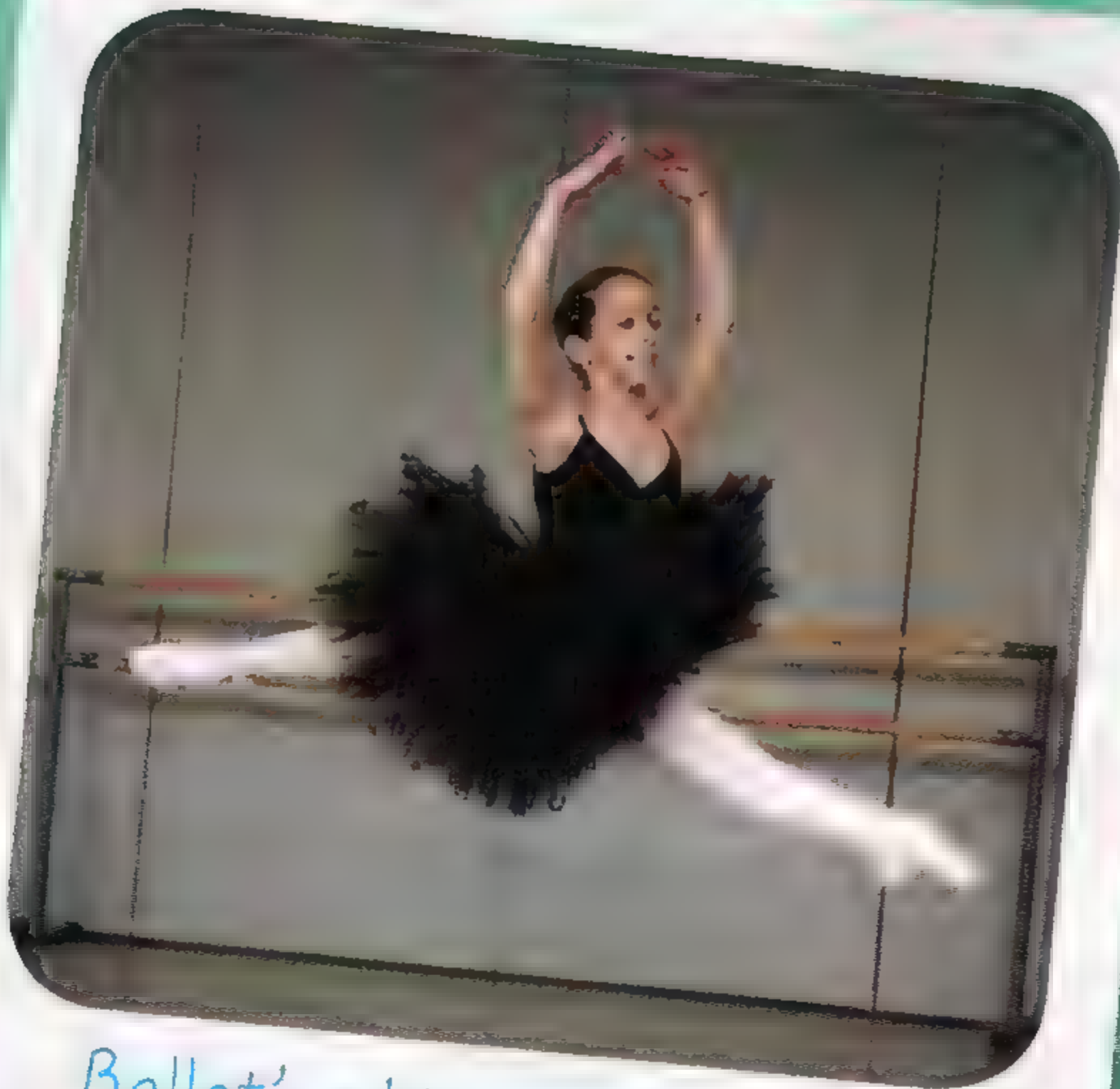




*I ride my pony at school.*

# I My School!

Think of the activity that you love to do most.  
Now imagine having it as part of your school day!



*Ballet's a big part of my day.*



*My schoolwork helps to protect sea turtles.*





# I ♥ Horses

Hannah J.  
Age: 12

**M**y pony Lilly lives at my school. The school has a barn, riding arenas, and many acres for trail riding. After my morning classes, like math and English, I put on my jeans and half chaps and go riding. Sometimes I ride one of the school's horses during my morning lesson and then I ride Lilly after school. I see her every day and give her lots of kisses and treats. She loves me almost as much as I love her. Lilly's favorite part of the day is when she gets let out in her pasture and she can run around and eat grass until her belly is full—which is never!

Some of my friends ride at school, too. Instead of competing in other school sports, like soccer and basketball, we compete on the middle-school riding team. Some weekends, we groom the horses like crazy, load them onto a trailer, and go to horse shows. Horses require a lot of work—we have to brush them, fill their water buckets, and muck their stalls. But I love it all. When I'm with the horses, I don't have to think about anything else. Riding helps me relax when school is stressful.

I feel so blessed that I get to ride every day. Dreams are hard to follow, but if you dream of horses, you can figure out a way to ride. It's worth all the hard work.

Remember to pack  
into my book bag:

- Carrots, apples, and sugar cubes for the horses
- Jeans
- Safety helmet







Dinnertime!



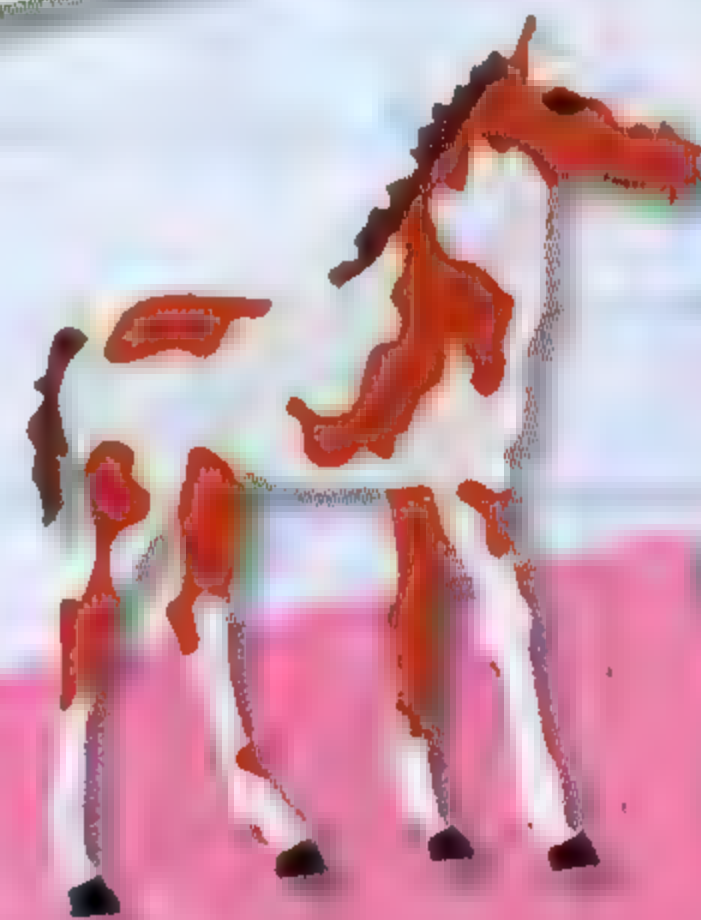
Lilly and me



I spend a lot of time riding, but also a lot of time at work in the school barn.



On goes the bridle



### Vocab List

half chaps leather coverings that support my lower legs while riding

tack up put the saddle and bridle on my pony

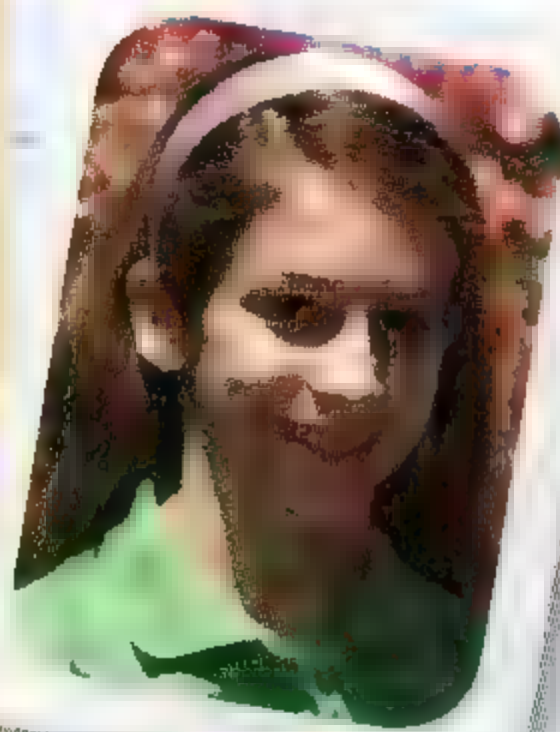
muck scoop horse poop





# I ♥ Ballet

Reagan W.  
Age: 12



I go to a full-time ballet academy. I love to dance. We practice hard in the studio—about four hours a day. We also go to class, do homework, eat, and study, study, study. We always find time for fun, too, like playing basketball and eating ice cream.

Last year was my first year at the ballet academy. For our spring performance, I danced a solo *en pointe*, which means that I danced on my toes. The solo was a little scary, but I was so happy to have earned such a privilege. I wore a sparkly blue and gold tutu and lots of makeup, including bright pink lipstick. The tutu looked light and pretty, but it was very heavy. The dress fitter made sure that it fit me perfectly.

Living at school is a lot different from living at home. My room at school has a sink, a few drawers, a closet, and a bunk bed. I live on the third floor with all of the younger kids. I sometimes get homesick for my family back in Texas, and I had to learn how to do my own laundry. But I call home a couple of times a day, and I call my grandma once a week. I hope that all my hard work will help me get into a good ballet company when I'm done with school. Maybe I'll even be a famous ballerina someday.

Dance!

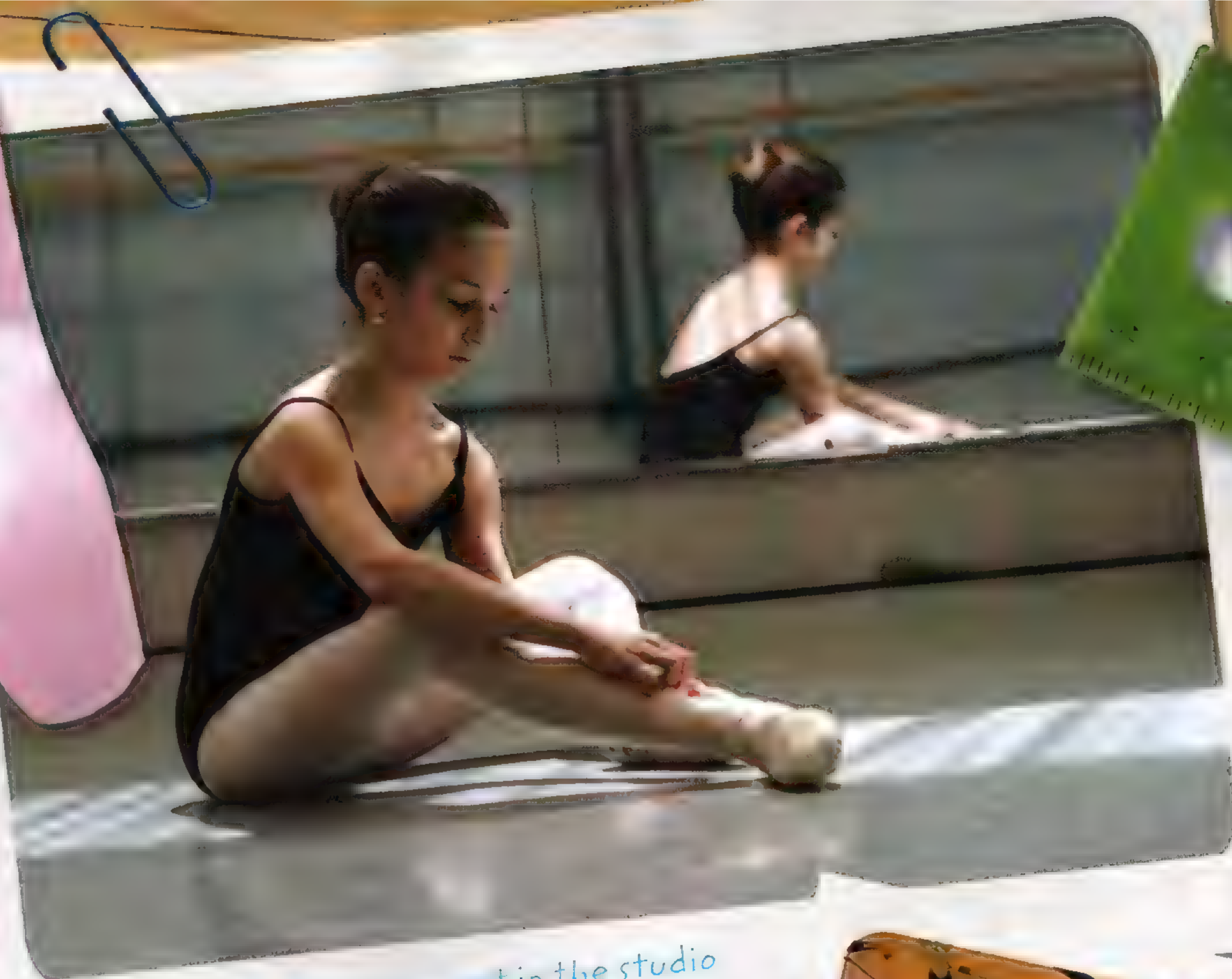


Costume time

Remember to pack  
into my book bag:

- Extra ballet slippers
- FlexiStretch, a device that helps me stretch
- Dance video to watch and practice





A quiet moment in the studio



I always try to make sure that my form is just right.



Going to class with Hannah and Meiri

### Vocab List

grand battement (grahn baht-mah) ballet movement in which you lift one leg up in the air and then bring it down

tendu (tahn-doo) ballet movement in which you slide one foot along the floor until it's pointed

en pointe (ahn pwahnt) dancing on your toes in special ballet slippers called pointe shoes





# I ♥ Turtles

Meimei N.

Age: 13

**A**t my school, I study marine biology by doing the real thing: helping threatened Hawaiian green sea turtles. Working closely with government scientists, I collect data at the *honu* (turtle) pond at one of the study sites for my school's sea turtle research program. Eight baby turtles—four boys and four girls—live in the pond. They are just a few months old, and each is about the size of a computer mouse pad.

On a typical day, my first task is to collect the turtles with a soft rubber net. Sometimes I find them basking on a sunny rock in the pond or resting under a little waterfall. I check their length, width, and body mass (weight). I love measuring the turtles and watching them grow. I keep detailed records that I'll use for my next science project.

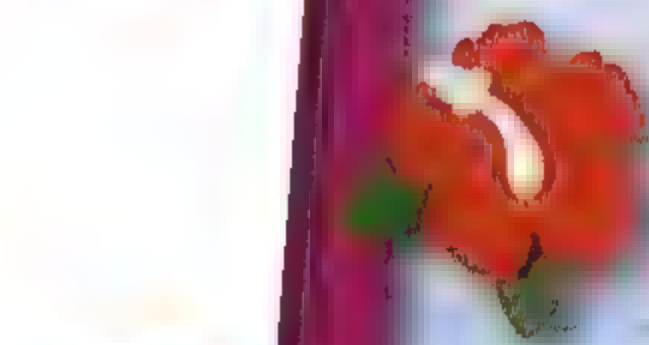
My school's research program also does turtle tagging. The tagging process helps scientists track the *honu*, collect data about them, and better understand them for conservation efforts. With the scientists' supervision, we get to snorkel in the ocean to look for turtles. They swim so fast! We use a special net to gently catch them. Once we have a turtle, we place it in a soft float and swim the turtle back to shore. We have to be careful to hold the turtle in just the right way so that it doesn't slap us with its flippers. Back on the beach, we help the scientists tag the turtle and briefly examine and measure it before release. It is exciting to be so close to the turtles, and I feel really good knowing that I'm helping to save them.

Remember to pack  
into my book bag:

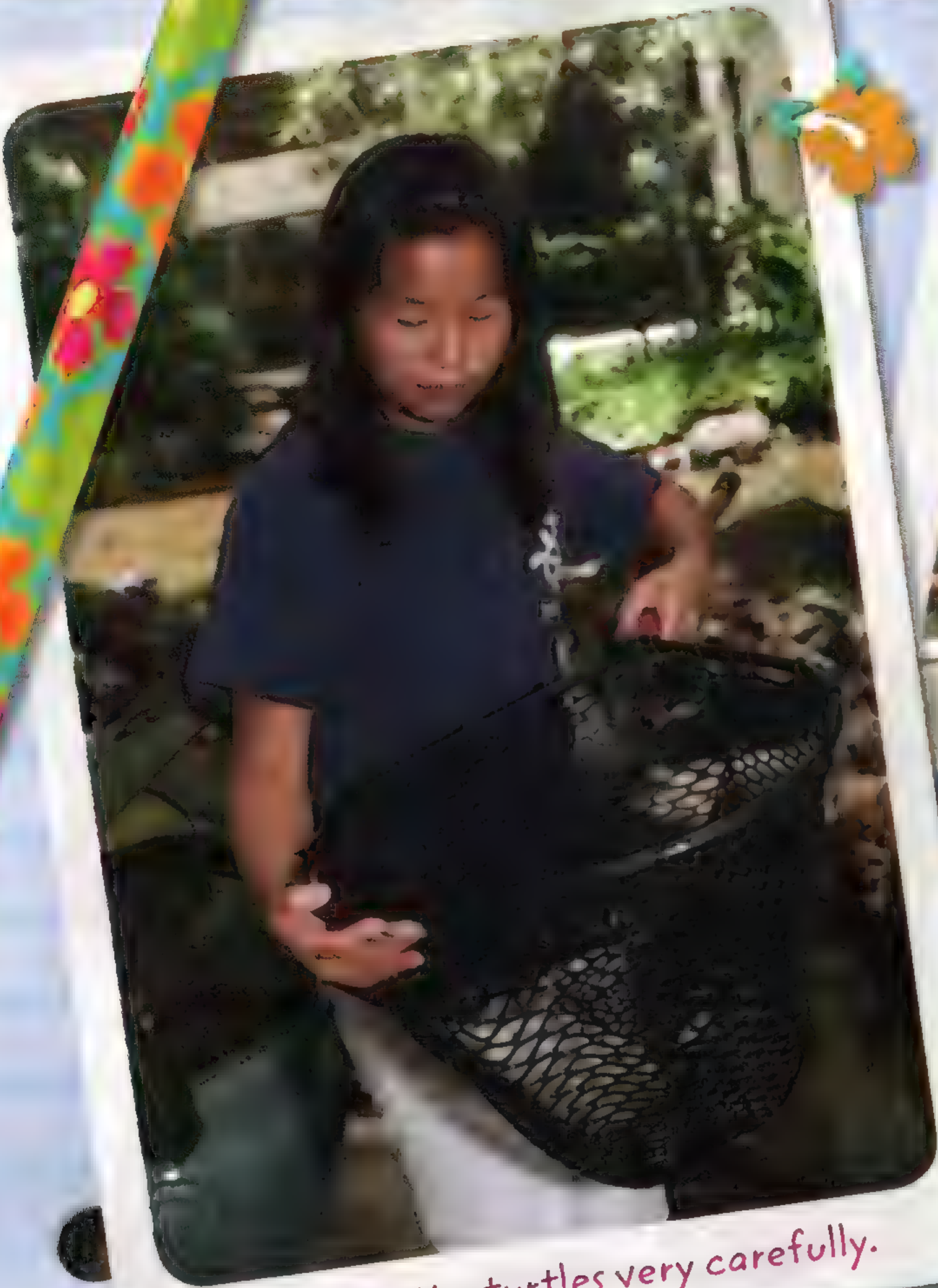
- Turtle data folder and notebook
- Turtle diet sheet and data sheet
- Background information sheets on the baby turtles



It'd be fun to swim all day!







I handle the turtles very carefully.



My, how you've grown! (Those are the calipers that we use for measuring.)



The turtles' habitat is so pretty.

**Vocab List**  
honu (ho-noo) means "turtle" in Hawaiian  
calipers a tool with two adjustable legs that is used for measuring thickness or length  
bask hang out on a sunny rock or log. It's how the honu warm themselves, and they love it! ★



# Real Friend Fights

These AG readers share how they got into a fight with a friend and how it worked out in the end.



## Stuck in the Middle

Annabel M.  
Age 12, North Carolina

**It all started when:** My two friends were gossiping about each other to me. It was hard for me because I wanted to be friends with both of them.

**What was said:** One of them said, "Don't be her friend. If you do, then I won't be your friend." To me, it hurts to lose a friend.

**Here's how we made up:** I told my friends, "I want to be friends with both of you, and if you don't stop gossiping about each other, I won't play with either of you." It all worked out because they didn't want to lose their friendships with me.

**Happy ending:** They became best friends again!



## Funny! Not.

Veda P.  
Age 13, South Carolina

**It all started when:** My best friend told me her secret embarrassing nickname—I laughed!

**What was said:** I teased her and started to make up an even more embarrassing nickname. Next thing I knew, she was running home crying.

**Here's how we made up:** I realized that she had told me to stop making fun of her, but I didn't listen. I felt really bad, so I went over to her house and apologized for being mean. She is a great friend and she forgave me instantly.

**Happy ending:** I'm glad I apologized. That was three years ago, and we are still best friends today.





## Singled Out

Rachel L.  
Age 9, Ohio

**It all started when:** My friend Abby was chosen for a solo in music class. I thought she was acting too cool, so I hung out with other girls.

**What was said:** When I was hanging out with other girls, Abby said, "I just lost my best friend." So I wrote her a note that said, "I won't be your friend until you give up this solo, which is making you act mean." Abby said, "I have been friends with you for two whole years and I will not let this solo ruin our friendship." She said she would tell our teacher that she was giving up doing the solo for me.

**Here's how we made up:** I cried when Abby said she would give up her solo for me! I realized that I was mad at her for the wrong reasons and I told her not to quit the solo.

**Happy ending:** Abby did her solo and I was proud of her. We're still best friends today.



## Me or Her. Period.

Nicole C. :-)  
Age 11

**It all started when:** I invited a new girl, Megan, to play with my friend Shawna and me. I was excited that we had a new friend, but Shawna did not share my excitement.

**What was said:** Shawna said, "Me or her." I had to give up my new friend or lose my best friend.

**Here's how we made up:** I called Shawna on the phone and told her that just because Megan was my friend, it didn't mean that I liked her any less. Every day I asked Shawna if she wanted to join Megan and me at recess. One day, she smiled and said, "I would like that." Sure enough, after spending some time with Megan, Shawna grew fond of her.

**Happy ending:** Four years later, the three of us are inseparable. ★



# SUPER 70S PARTY

Throw a costume party  
celebrating a decade of flower  
power, smiley faces, and  
lots of dancing!



## Invitation

Use the stickers provided  
in the magazine to decorate  
a blank card. Add party  
details inside.

## Photo Backdrop


Create a backdrop for great  
photo ops. Hang a brightly  
colored sheet against the  
wall. Drape a beaded curtain  
in front of it. Supply guests  
with costume accessories  
such as hats, sunglasses,  
fake flowers, and beaded  
necklaces. Ham it up  
for the camera!







## Smiley Face Garland

 Hang this happy garland for your party. Use a permanent black marker to draw smiley faces on small yellow paper plates. Glue the plates back-to-back with a piece of yarn in between. Let dry, and ask an adult to help you hang up the garland before guests arrive.

## Flower Power

See who's paying attention in this fast-paced game. Have players stand in a circle. The first person begins by saying "Flower," and turns her head quickly to the person on her right. That girl passes the word "Flower" to the next girl, and so on around the

circle. The word "Power" stops the "Flower" and makes the game change direction. You cannot say "Power" twice in a row. If someone says the wrong word, she must sit down. The two girls left standing are the winners!

May Cool	Groovy	Dream On
Boogie Down	Far Out	Can you dig it?
What's Shakin'?	Right On	Catch you on the flip side

## Lingo Bingo

Make cards like the one shown above with different popular sayings from the '70s. Be sure the order of the words is different for each card. Write down each saying on a slip of paper, and place slips in a bowl. Ask a parent to pick a slip and read it aloud. Players must put a penny on the saying that has been called. The first one to get three in a row on her card wins. Switch cards and play again!








## I ♥ the '70s

Play musical chairs with disco music. Ask your mom and dad to pick out their favorite 1970s music for you to play during the game.



## Fun Fondue

 Fondue was popular during the 1970s. Ask an adult to help you warm your favorite pasta sauce (tomato, cheese, or alfredo) in a bowl. Ask an adult to help you cut a loaf of bread into cubes, and to warm vegetables, such as broccoli, carrots, or beans. Place the bowl of sauce in the middle of the table. Use forks to dip the food in the bowl.



## Make a Mood Ring

Have each guest choose a color that best suits her mood. Have each listed color of acrylic paint available. Paint the back of a flat-backed clear

glass stone in the chosen color. Let dry (about 3 minutes). Use tacky glue to attach the stone to a plastic ring. Let dry completely.



## Create a Pet

The Pet Rock was a toy fad in the 1970s. Make your own version at the party. Glue googly eyes onto a rock. Decorate a small box for

your rock to "live" in. Place crinkled paper in the box for your pet's nest. Name your pet and keep it in your room.

## Sweet Smiles

Serve up smiles to your guests. Cover vanilla cupcakes with yellow frosting. Use black gel icing to draw a smiley face on each cupcake.







## Mini Pouches

Mellow out and make denim pouches. For each guest, ask an adult for permission to cut around one back pocket on a pair of old jeans. Don't separate the pocket from the back layer of denim. Cover a work area with newspaper. Glue patches to the pocket or decorate with fabric paint. Let dry. Attach a cord or braided leather handle with safety pins.



## Groovy Gulps

Make drinks in all the colors of the rainbow! For each drink, sprinkle a pinch of unsweetened fruit-flavored drink mix powder into a

glass. Add cold lemon-lime soda and stir. Use different flavors of drink powder to make different colors.



## Funky Favors

Use a permanent marker to draw eyes and a smile on a small yellow gift bag. Fill bag with shredded crinkle paper and fun favors, such as pencils, temporary tattoos, patches, and stickers! ★



This party celebrates the fun of the 1970s. Meet Julie, the newest American Girl, coming in mid-September. Enter to win one of 100 Julie books and learn what life was like for a girl growing up during the 1970s. Go to page 2 to find out how to enter.



Are you a friend to **animals**? A **sporty** girl?  
A **math** lover? You can find a career that matches the  
things you love to do now—and it might be a job that  
you've never even heard of.



# What Can You Be?



*by Diane Heiman and Liz Suneby*





If you love animals,  
you might like to be...

## A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

Flocks of geese flying south. Schools of salmon swimming upstream. Baby seals playing on the ice. Wildlife photographers **capture images of animals in their habitats** for books, magazines, posters, and the Web. Braving bad weather, carrying heavy equipment, and working early in the morning and late at night are all parts of the job, but so is traveling to interesting places!



### TRY IT OUT

What animals, insects, or birds do you see in your habitat? Grab a camera and head to your backyard or a neighborhood park. Point your camera behind a bush, under a rock, or up a tree. What do you see? Can you snap a shot before your subject flies or scampers away?



If you love food and cooking,  
you might like to be...

## AN ICE CREAM TESTER

Can you believe that people get paid to sample ice cream? An ice cream tester cuts cartons of ice cream in half to make sure ingredients such as fudge are swirled evenly throughout. **Tasters also taste ice cream for flavor** using real gold spoons. Why gold? Because gold spoons don't create an aftertaste the way that wooden or plastic spoons do.



### TRY IT OUT

Invite friends to test three brands of chocolate-chip ice cream. Record what each tester says about the sensation of the first bite (smooth, creamy, or crunchy), the number of chocolate chips (too many, just right, or not enough), and which kind he or she likes best overall. Which brand wins?



About 75 percent of the students who are studying to be veterinarians are women.



If you love math and puzzles,  
you might like to be...

## A TRANSIT PLANNER

Transit planners **map out routes for public subways, trains, boats, and buses.** They decide when and where transportation will stop to pick up travelers. To make those decisions, transit planners analyze lots of data, such as how many riders use each stop and which neighborhoods are growing or shrinking. Planners also listen to comments from riders themselves.



### TRY IT OUT

Map out a trip for your family. Go online and find the bus, train, or subway schedule for your town or the nearest city. Many Web sites have "trip planners" to make it easy for you. Find a museum, park, or other fun place you can visit without taking the family car.



If you love sports and fitness,  
you might like to be...

## A DANCE STUDIO OWNER

Many dance studio owners were once professional dancers. They use their talents to **teach other dancers ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and ballroom dancing moves.**

Studio owners also have the responsibility of running a business, so they must be just as quick with numbers and money as they are on their feet.



### TRY IT OUT

Look through your CDs, and choose a toe-tapping, get-up-and-boogie kind of song. Now *choreograph*, or make up a dance routine to go along with the song. Practice by yourself in front of a mirror. Or teach a friend and practice together!





If you love art,  
you might like to be...

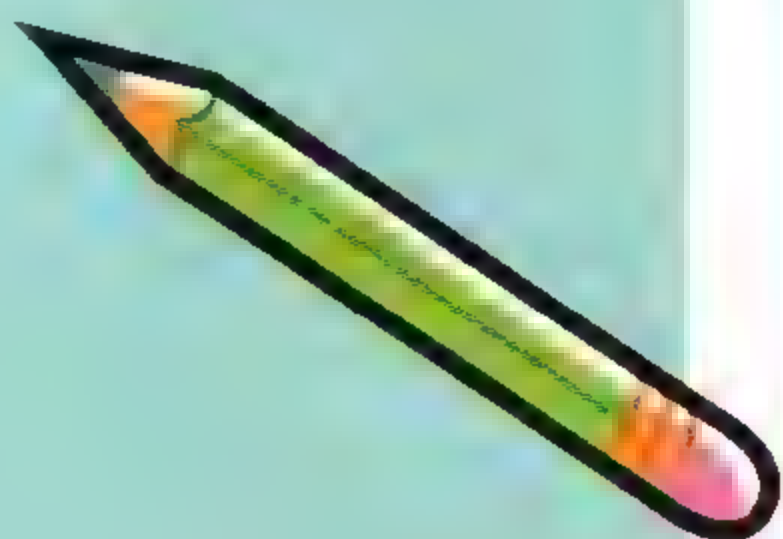
## AN ARCHITECT

Buckingham Palace, the Taj Mahal, the White House, and your house—architects were behind each of them! Architects **design homes and other buildings**. They draw by hand, use computer software, and make 3-D models of the buildings that they design. Architects try to create buildings that look attractive but are also safe and affordable.



### TRY IT OUT

Pretend that your parents hired an architect to redesign your home. You get to request some fun features. What will they be? A secret passageway to the kitchen? A swing in your bedroom? A touch pad that you can use to change the color of your walls to match your mood?



If you love reading and writing,  
you might like to be...

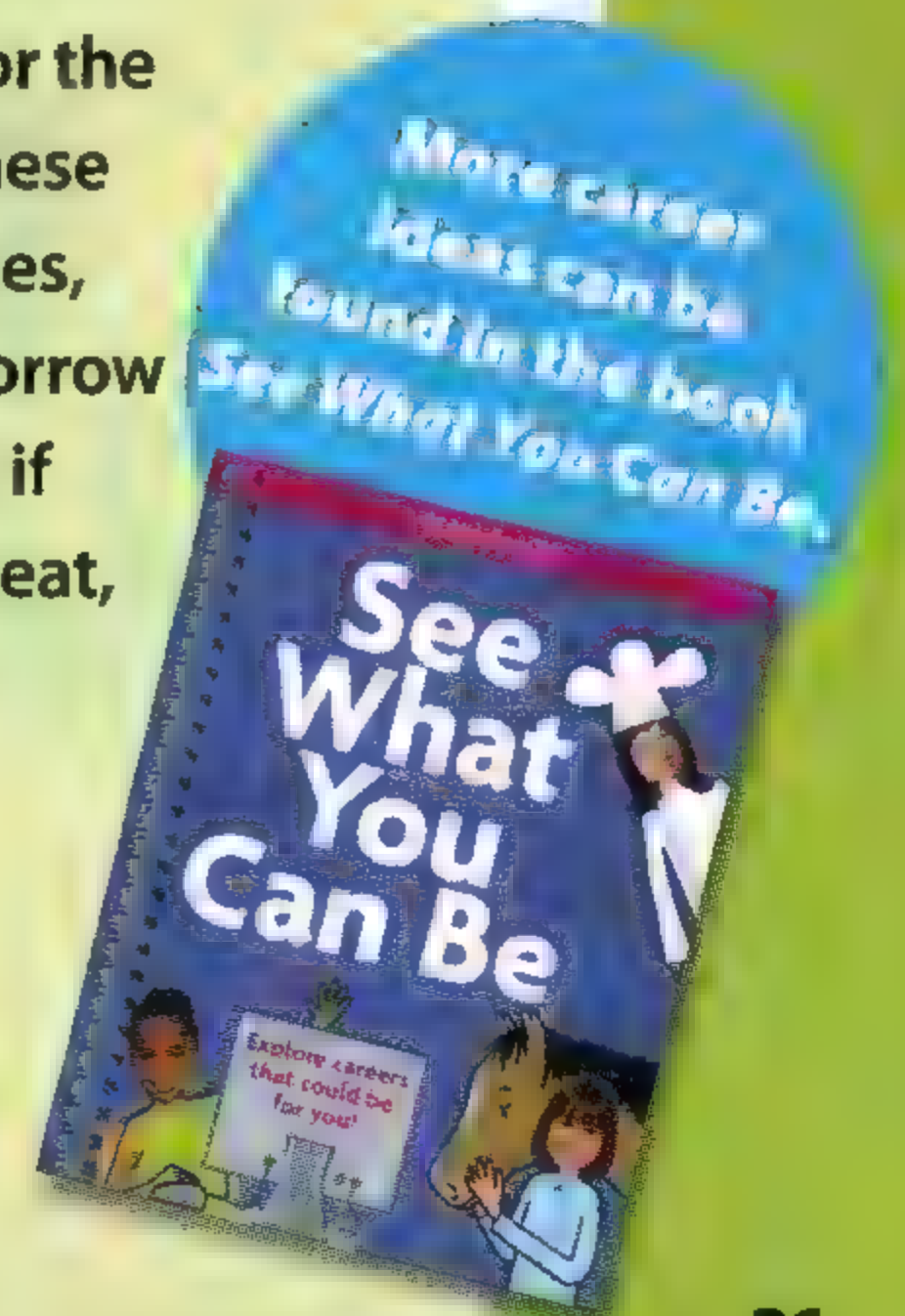
## A DIALECT COACH

People in different regions talk in different ways. You might be greeted by “Hi, y’all” in Alabama and “Hi, you guys” in Illinois. Dialect coaches help actors **learn accents, phrases, and words from different parts of the world**. Other times they help people lose their accents.



### TRY IT OUT

Want to have tea with J.K. Rowling or the Queen of England? Then practice these British terms. When you crave cookies, ask for “biscuits, please.” Need to borrow a sweater? Request a “jumper.” And if your souvenirs don’t fit in the backseat, ask to put them in the “boot,” not the trunk. ★



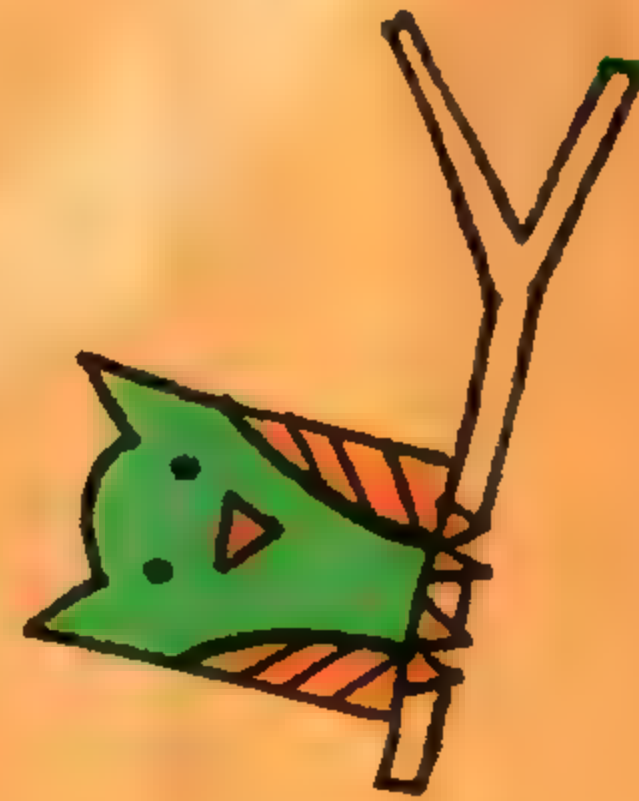


# Spooky Doodles

Use the numbers one through nine to make dozens of drawings!

1 1

1



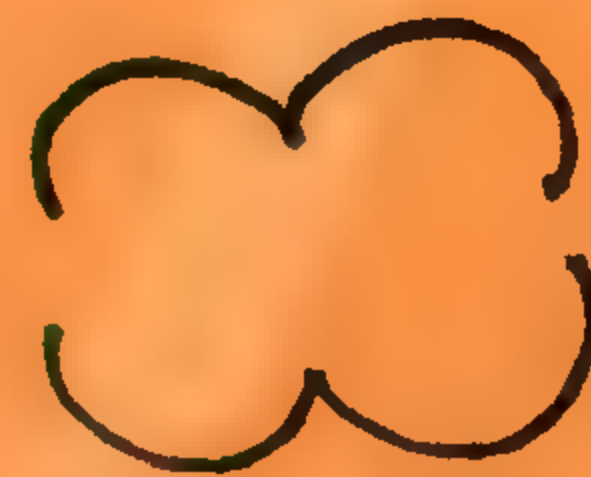
Cute Hoot

2 2

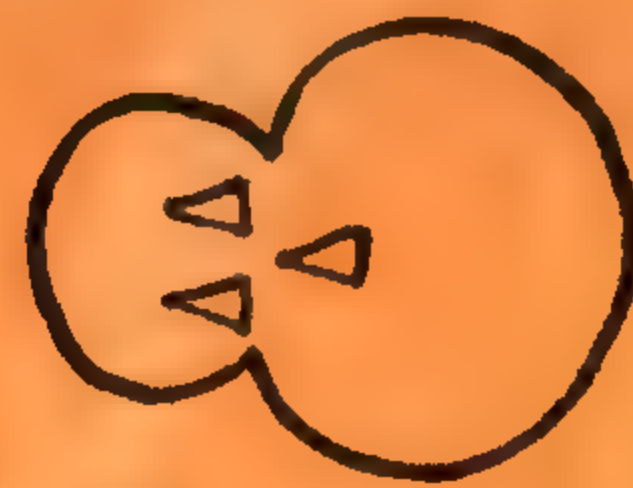
2



Mouse Magic



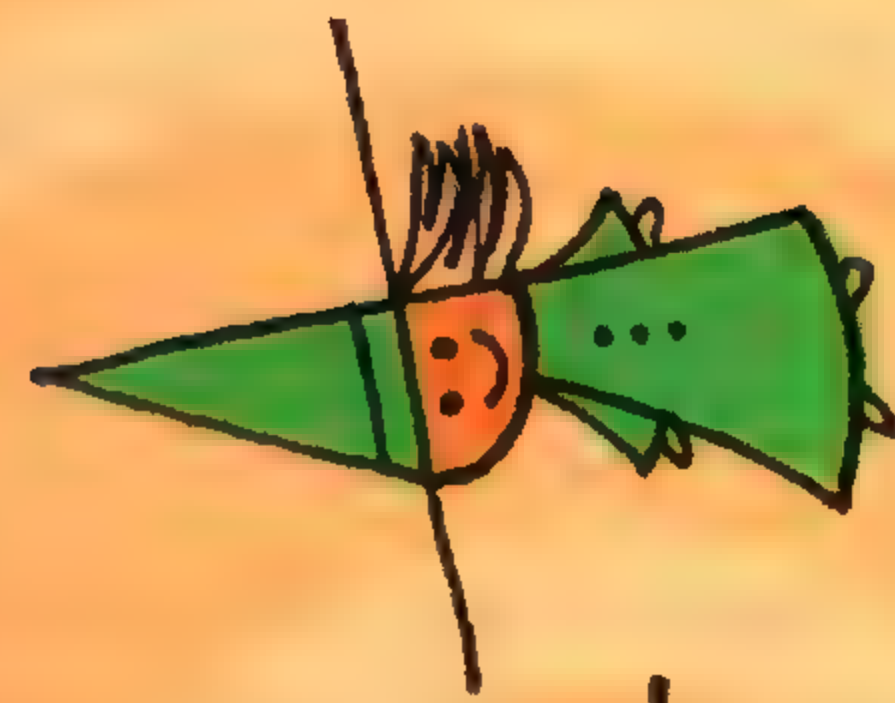
3



Silly Skull



4



Willa Witch



5



Spinning Spider



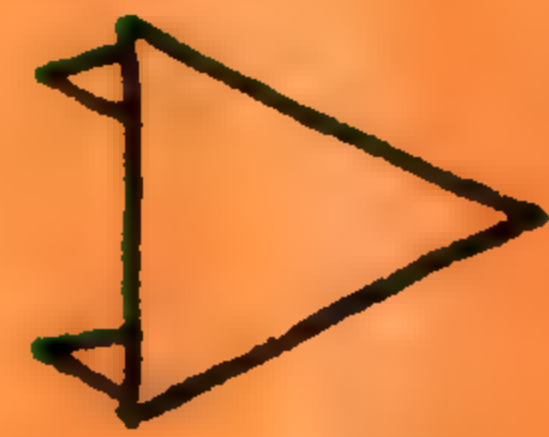
Mr. Moon

6



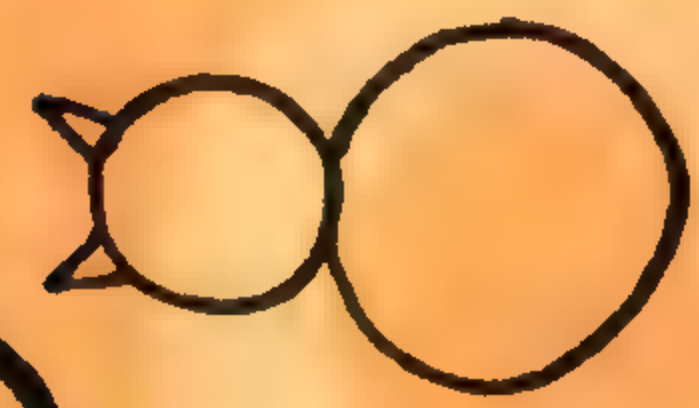
66

7

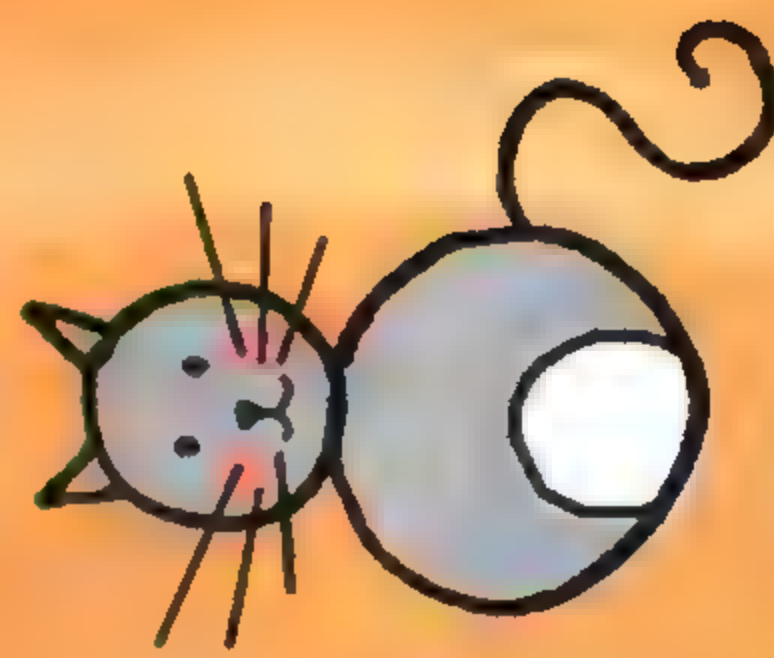


Betty Bat

8



Sittin' Kitten



Ghost Girl

9





# A Perfect Melody

Leah discovers that being a winner means more than just winning.  
by Lorien M.

**Contest Winner**

Last January, we invited you to write a story that included the line: "When Leah walked to morning pajamas, everyone stared." From the more than 1,700 entries, we picked this winner!







**L**eah Foster hit the final note in the song and then began to clean her flute. She had started playing flute when she was eight, using a flute borrowed from a neighbor who wasn't using it. When she was eleven, she got a flute from her parents for Christmas. She took great care of it and practiced daily. When she was thirteen, she joined the school band. Almost immediately she got first chair and still held it now, a year later. Just as she was folding up her music stand, the phone rang. Her mom and dad were both working, so she went to get it.

"Hello."

"Leah, you'll never guess what I just found out!" Leah recognized the voice of her best friend, Joanna.

"What's up, Jo?"

"Auditions for All-State Band are in two weeks. You have to try out!"

"I don't think so, Joanna. I've never been good at auditions, and besides—it's only two weeks away."

"Come on, Leah! You're an amazing player, and you could play one of those gorgeous pieces you played at the recital."

"I'll think about it," Leah said, and with that they hung up.

**T**hat night at dinner, Leah told her parents about the audition. They exchanged a funny look, and her mom held up a piece of paper. "Your dad and I brought this home because we thought it would be a good idea for you to audition," she said.

Leah's mom passed her the flyer. It was blue with the words "All-State Auditions: November 12th, 9:00 A.M. at George Washington Middle School" printed on it.

"We think it would be a great experience for you, whether you get in or not," Leah's mom said.

"Well, if you want me to, I'll give it a try."





**T**he next day, Leah pulled out her recital pieces and picked her favorite. It was slow and sweet, with lots of swells. For the next two weeks Leah poured herself into practicing the piece. Then, the day before the audition, she bumped into Rachel Jacobs.

"So, Leah, I hear you are auditioning for All-State. Do you really want to embarrass yourself? After my audition, yours will sound like a kindergarten performance," Rachel said snottily.

Rachel and Leah had been fighting for first chair in the school band ever since Leah had gotten it.

"Rachel, I'm still first chair," Leah replied.

"For now!" Rachel stomped off.

Leah pushed a wisp of her curly brown hair behind her ear and headed to band. When she got there, Mr. Johnson, the band director, stood up to make an announcement. "Kids," he said, "today Rachel Jacobs would like to challenge Leah Foster for first chair."

Leah wasn't worried; Rachel had challenged her four times and nothing had come of it. Rachel would pick a piece and they would both play it. Then Mr. Johnson would pick whoever played the song better. If it was Leah, she would keep first chair; if it was Rachel, she would gain first chair.

The sheet music was placed in front of them and they both began to play. Leah hit the second note wrong. Then she slurred when she shouldn't have, which flustered her so much that the rest of the song went downhill. She couldn't keep a consistent tempo, and her sound was not good at all.

Rachel, on the other hand, played flawlessly.

Leah was mortified. It was one of the band pieces she should have known.

Rachel was given first chair, and Leah left the band room on the verge of tears. She went through the rest of her classes in a haze.

At dinner, she picked at her food. That night, she tossed and turned in bed for a long time before she fell asleep.







**"L**eah!" called Mrs. Foster the next morning. "Where is that girl? I woke her thirty minutes ago, and breakfast is getting cold."

Leah's mom sat at the table with Mr. Foster and Leah's little brother, Jake. When Leah walked in wearing pajamas, everyone stared.

"Leah, what are you doing?" said her dad. "You should be dressed. We're leaving for the audition in fifteen minutes!"

"I don't feel well. Maybe next year," said Leah. Then she burst into tears and ran from the room. Her mom followed her into her bedroom and sat on the foot of her bed.

"Honey, what's wrong? Why don't you want to go?"

"I told you—I'm sick!" Leah replied.

Her mom gave her a knowing look. "What's *really* wrong?"

**Bravery isn't about not being scared—  
it means doing something despite  
the fact that you're afraid.**

"Yesterday I lost first chair!" Leah said. "Now I know that Rachel Jacobs is going to make this audition and I'm going to do a horrible job and humiliate myself!"

"Oh, Leah. First of all, I've heard you play your song, and you're not going to humiliate yourself. And besides, we can't decide to not do things just because we're afraid—otherwise, nobody would ever do anything. Bravery isn't about not being scared—it means doing something despite the fact that you're afraid. And if you go out there and do your best, we'll all be proud of you, no matter what the outcome." Leah's mom smiled.

"So what do you say? Do we have an audition to go to?"

"Yeah, I guess," Leah replied.

"Attagirl. You'd better get dressed. We only have ten minutes."







**L**eah sat outside the audition room nervously clutching her flute. Finally, they called her name. She stepped into the audition room. Her first note was clear and loud, and as soon as she hit it, all her worries faded.

After everyone had auditioned, the judges called the musicians back into the room to announce who would be invited to join the All-State Band. One by one, people's names were called, until there was only one spot left. Neither Leah nor Rachel had made it in.

Finally, one of the judges said, "And our final member is Rachel Jacobs. Thank you all for coming—everyone did a great job."

Leah sat for a minute and thought. Then she knew exactly what she had to do. She walked over to Rachel.

"Congratulations! You're a really great musician. You deserve it," Leah said, sticking out her hand.

"Um, thanks. Thanks a lot!" Rachel said, slowly shaking Leah's hand.

As Leah headed out to the car with her family, she breathed in the crisp autumn air and admired the beautiful colors that the leaves were turning. She let out a contented sigh, knowing that even though she hadn't gotten a spot in the All-State Band, she had won. ★







## Meet the Author



*Lorien M.*

When I wrote this story, I thought about how nervous I get before a flute audition but how once I start to play, I get wrapped up in the song. And when it's over, I'm always glad I did it. I think it's important to try new things, even if we're scared.

**Lorien, age 14, lives in New Mexico.**

## Honorable mentions go to:

*Hannah P.*

**Age 13, Ohio**

*Mira M.*

**Age 9, Maine**

*Janessa G.*

**Age 10, California**

*Dakota Mae H.*

**Age 14, Michigan**

*Sarah W.*

**Age 14, Pennsylvania**

*Gracelanna J.*

**Age 11, Wisconsin**

## New Story Contest!

It's time for another story contest.  
Here are the rules:

**1** Write a story that includes one of the animals shown on the right. Give your story a spring setting. All other characters in your story must be original creations.

**2** Your story shouldn't be longer than four handwritten pages or three typed pages.

**3** Include your first and last name, address, phone number, school photo, and birth date. You and your parent must sign your story, stating that you made it up.

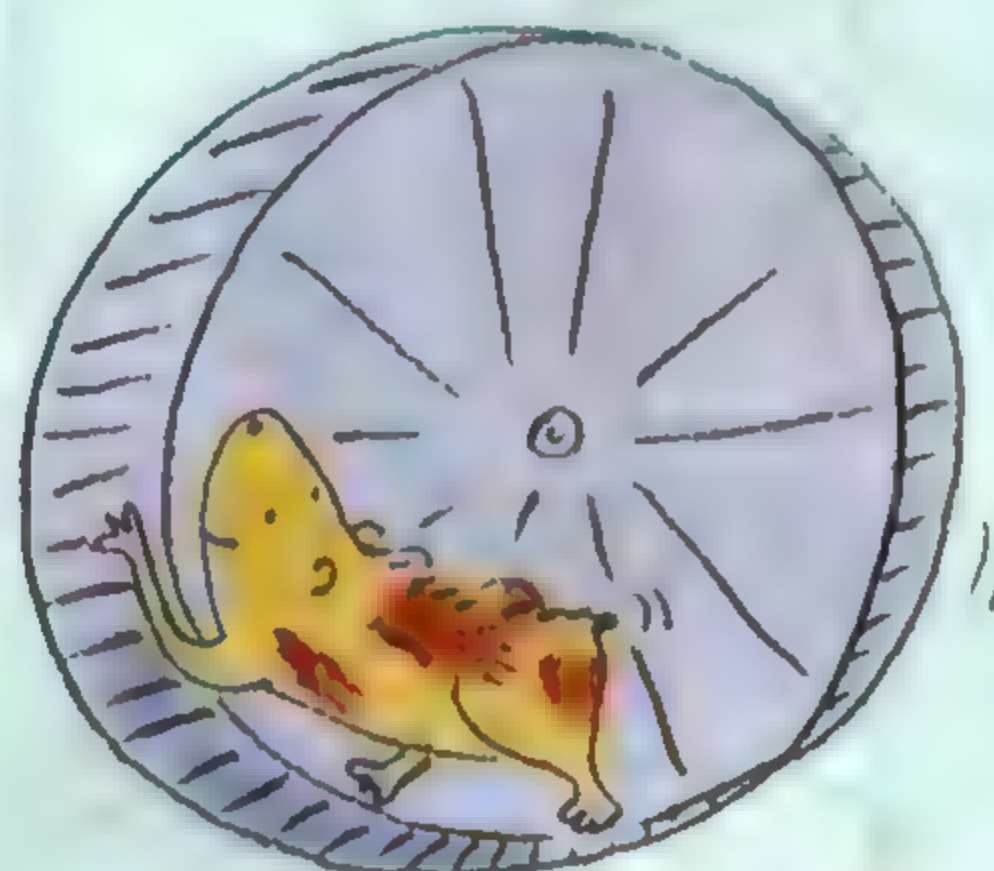
**4** Mail your story to the address on page 2. Stories must be postmarked by October 10, 2007. Winners will appear in the May/June 2008 issue.



a dog who lives in a store



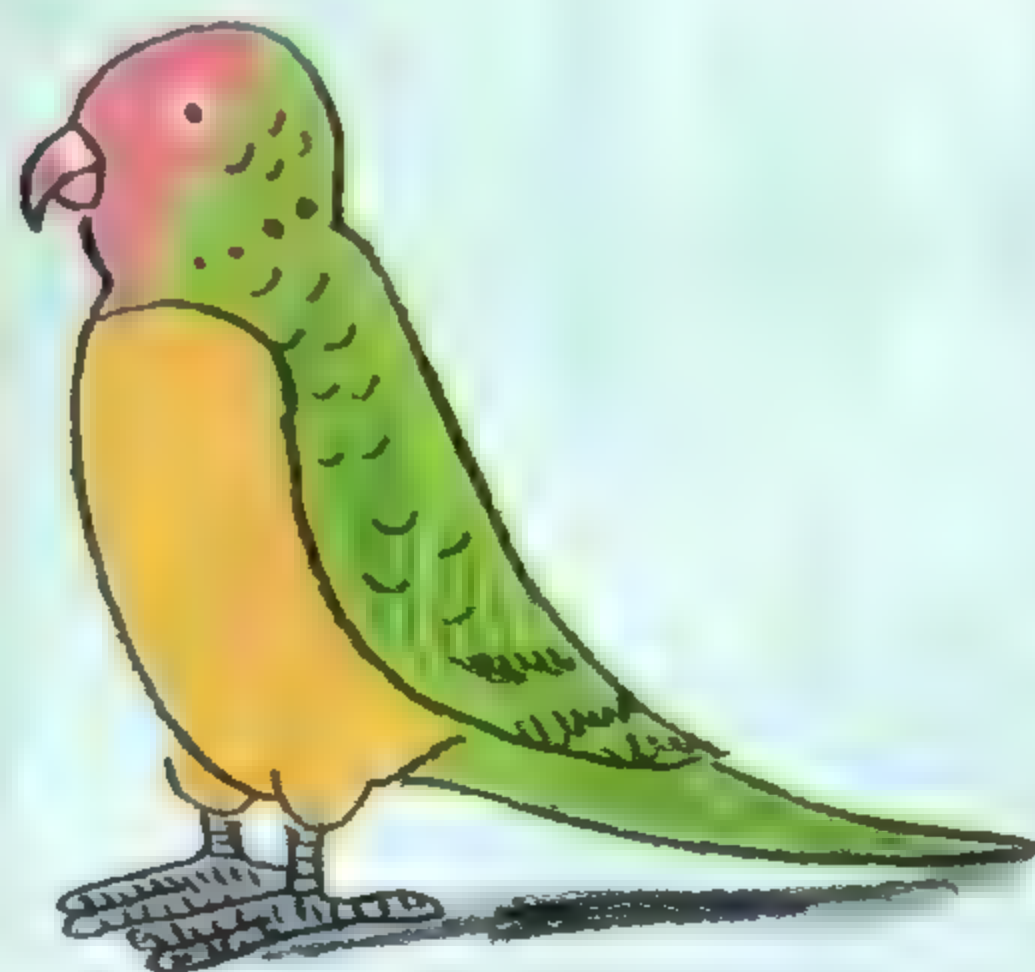
a dolphin tchotchke



a hamster who is a class pet



a horse with spots that spell out a word



a parakeet who can see the future



a well-loved stuffed monkey



# Brainwaves

activities and puzzles



## Leaf Hopping

Find your way home through this leaf pile. Move from leaf to leaf—up, down, left, or right. Here's the catch: you can move from one leaf to the next only if the leaves are the **same color** or the **same shape**.





## Which Way?

It took these girls a minute to figure out how to get to the baby animals. Circle the sign they followed.



## Go Nuts!



Can you connect all nine acorns using just four lines? The tricky part is, you can't lift your pen from the page. Here's a hint: the lines can extend beyond the squirrels' paper.

## Photo Fun

Julia S., age 9, from Massachusetts sent us this photo of herself playing in the leaves with her dog. See if you can figure out which dog is Julia's.



1. Julia's dog has a black nose.
2. Julia's dog's ears flop down.
3. Julia's dog does not have freckles.
4. Julia's dog's fur is all one color.



## Silly School Paper

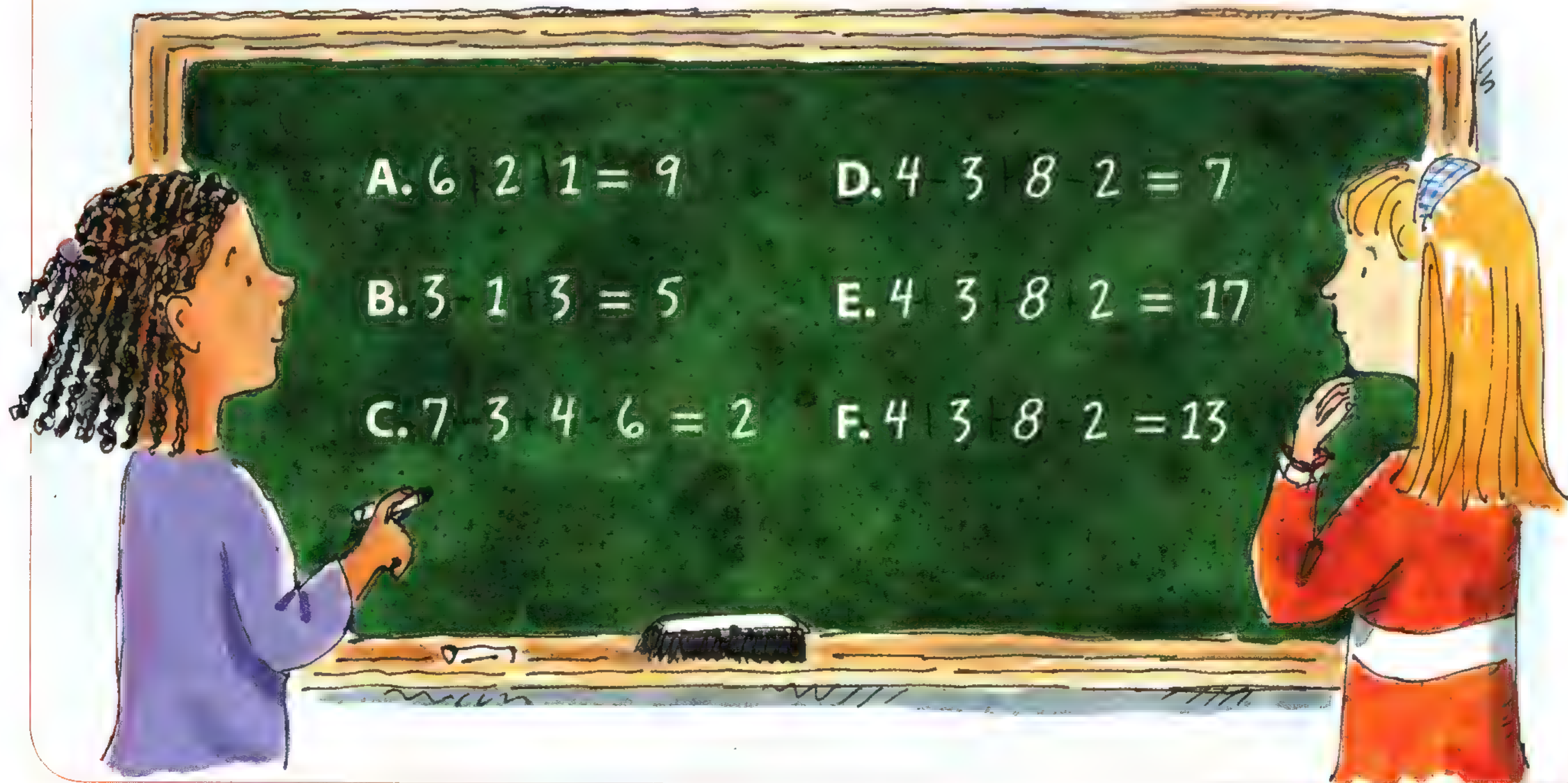
Use your name to make up a humorous headline. Write the letters in your name vertically, and think of a word to go with each. We've given some examples below.

<b>E</b> Emily	<b>A</b> Anne
<b>M</b> Made	<b>N</b> Never
<b>I</b> Igloos	<b>N</b> Needs
<b>L</b> Last	<b>E</b> Eggplants
<b>Y</b> Year	



## Plus or Minus?

Can you figure out which math symbols are needed between the numbers to make each equation correct?





## Art Sleuth

Search the pages of this issue to find where each snippet of the photo or illustration shown below came from. Write down where you found it.



1. 11



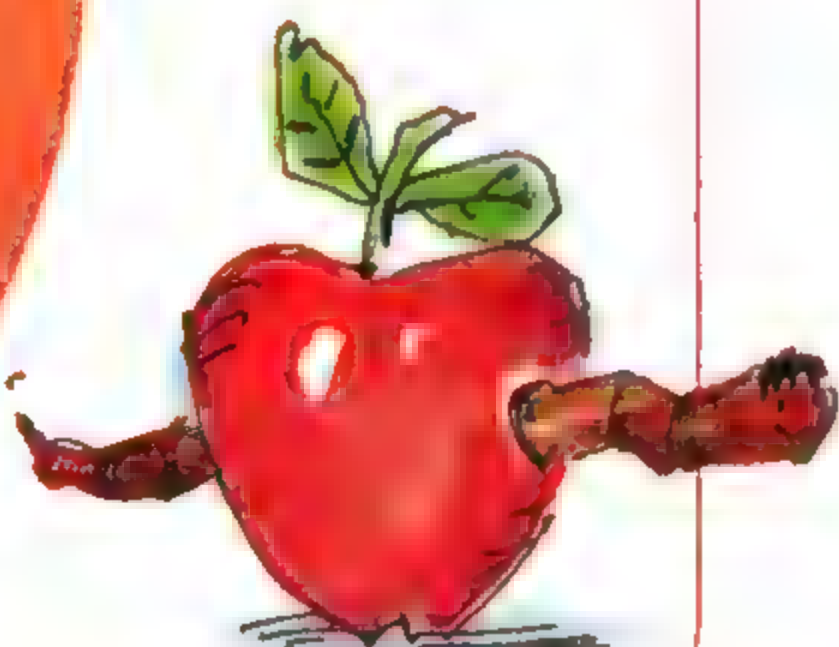
2. 12



3. 5



4. 24



## Laffateria

A bottle of soda pop went to school. What subject did it learn?

Fizical education

Christy N.  
Age 9, Oklahoma

What did one pencil say to the other?

"Looking sharp!"

Kayla N.  
Age 12, Wisconsin

Who invented fractions?

Henry the  $\frac{1}{2}$

Wynn S.  
Age 12, Colorado

Why was the math book so sad?

Because it had so many problems!

Briana P.  
Age 11, New York

What did the 0 say to the 8?

"Nice belt!"

Haley M.  
Age 12, Ohio

Turn the page to get a list of how to write your own jokes!





## Joke-ology

Follow these steps to make up your own jokes!



1. Pick a short, simple word:

CAT

2. Take off the first letter:

AT

3. Think of a word that begins with the remaining letters:

ATTITUDE

4. Put the letter you took off back onto the front of the new word:

CATTITUDE

5. Think of a question using the word from Step 1. For the answer, use the word from Step 4. For example:

**Question:** What did the tabby say to her sassy kitten?

**Answer:** "I don't like your cattitude."

## Ha-Ha Helpers

\* If these steps don't work with the first word you try, try again.

\* Jokes are usually funnier if you don't use the same word in the question and the answer. So instead of this:

**Q:** Where does hair go to catch a plane?

**A:** To the hairport.

Try this:

**Q:** Where do ponytails go to catch a plane?

**A:** To the hairport.

\* Try your jokes out on people. If they don't laugh, change the joke a little bit. Keep in mind that if you have to explain it, it isn't funny.

**Funny Business**  
Send your best joke to *Brain Waves!* Write to the address on page 2. Include your name, birth date, school photo, and signature.

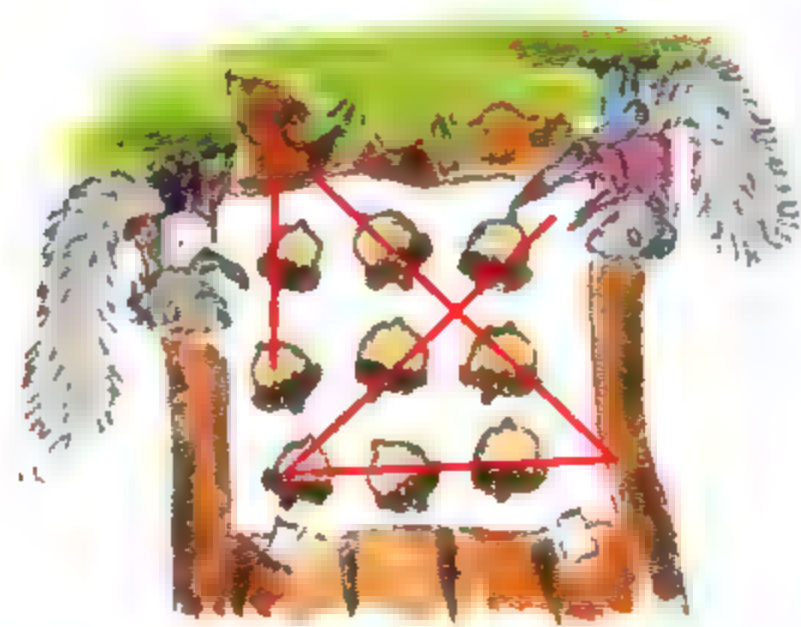


## Answer Box



Lucy is Julia's dog.

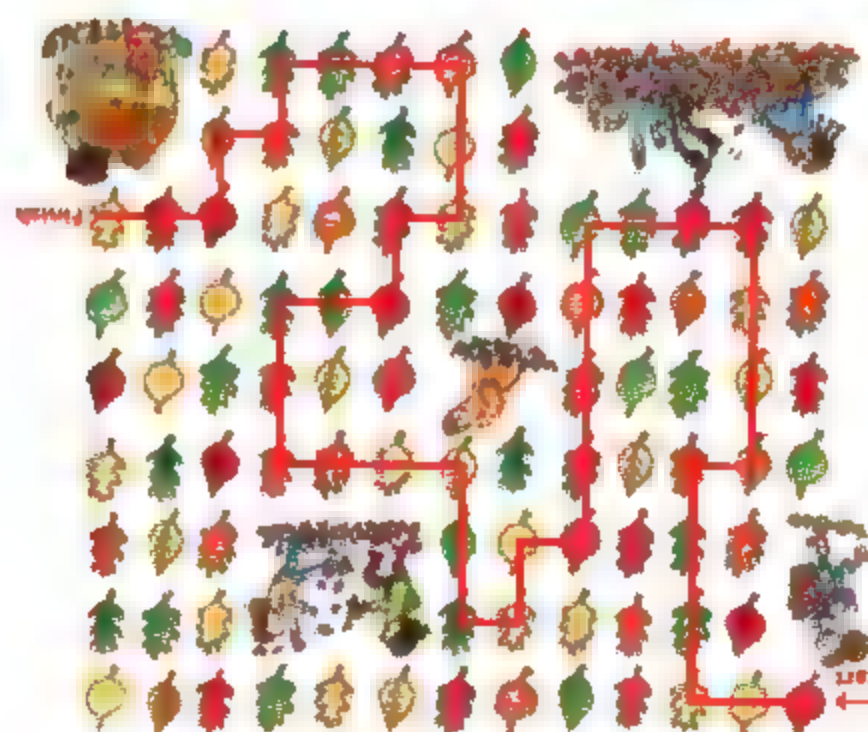
### Photo Fun



### Go Nuts!

If you say the words on the signs out loud, you'll notice that they sound like letters. So the girls should follow sign 3 to the f-a-r-m.

### Which Way?



### Leaf Hopping

### Girls Express

1. page 11; 2. page 12; 3. page 5;  
4. page 24

### Art Sleuth

A.  $6 + 2 + 1 = 9$ ; B.  $3 - 1 + 3 = 5$ ;  
C.  $7 - 3 + 4 - 6 = 2$ ; D.  $4 - 3 + 8 - 2 = 7$ ;  
E.  $4 + 3 + 8 + 2 = 17$ ; F.  $4 + 3 + 8 - 2 = 13$

### Plus or Minus?



# Use Your Head



Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters.

Illustration: Mary Lynn Blasutta

★ American Girl



PEEK  
-A-  
BOO!



Illustration: Mary Lynn Blasutta



# HELP!

*Dear American Girl,*

A friend of mine's always hungry at lunchtime. She finishes her own lunch in a flash and asks others to share their food with her. I don't mind sharing once in a while, but my friend doesn't realize that I need to eat, too.

*Not a buffet*

When your friend asks for food, say, "Sorry, but I'm not done yet. I'll let you know if I have leftovers." You could also suggest that she buy a snack from a vending machine. If she has to spend her own money on food, she might decide she's not so hungry after all. And, of course, once in a while you could pack extra snacks or treats and offer to share some with her. Then you'll have enough for both of you.



*Dear American Girl,*

I have a problem with typing. I'm in fifth grade and I'm still no good at it. We are going to put covers over the keys at school, but I need to look at them to type. What should I do?

*Can't type*



There's no real secret to typing. What you need to do is practice, practice, practice. You'll see progress if you spend just a little time typing every day. There is computer software designed for teaching kids to type, and there are also typing Web sites for kids. Talk to your parents about giving those a try, and before long you won't need to peek at the keys.



*Dear American Girl,*

My hair always has lots of knots in it. When I wake up, it's a mess. I have no time in the morning to brush it, and I'm so sick of it looking horrible. What can I do?

*Knots*

Start by getting a haircut. Tell your stylist about your problem and ask

her to recommend a style that is easier to care for. Long hair usually needs to be brushed more than short hair, so a cute shorter cut might tame your tangles. A good trim will even help keep longer hair easier to manage. You can also try using headbands, clips, or barrettes to style your hair and keep it neat. Good luck!



*Dear American Girl,*

Some of the kids on my bus said mean things about my friend when she wasn't there. I didn't say anything, but I felt like crying. My friend would have stuck up for me. Should I tell her?

*Stuck!*

Telling your friend about this now will only hurt her feelings. Instead, make a promise to yourself that you will stick up for her next time. It can be as straightforward as saying, "She's my friend, and I don't like what you're saying about her," or "I don't agree. I think she's nice." You'll feel better knowing you're ready to do the right thing.



## MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I have a ton of freckles all over my face. I don't get made fun of, but every time I look at my face in the mirror, I wish I looked like other girls.

### Freckles

Your freckles are part of what makes you unique, and they're not going away anytime soon. So instead of focusing on them, put your energy toward the parts of yourself that you *can* change. For example, set a goal to increase your confidence by making fewer negative comments about yourself and more positive ones. Try it!

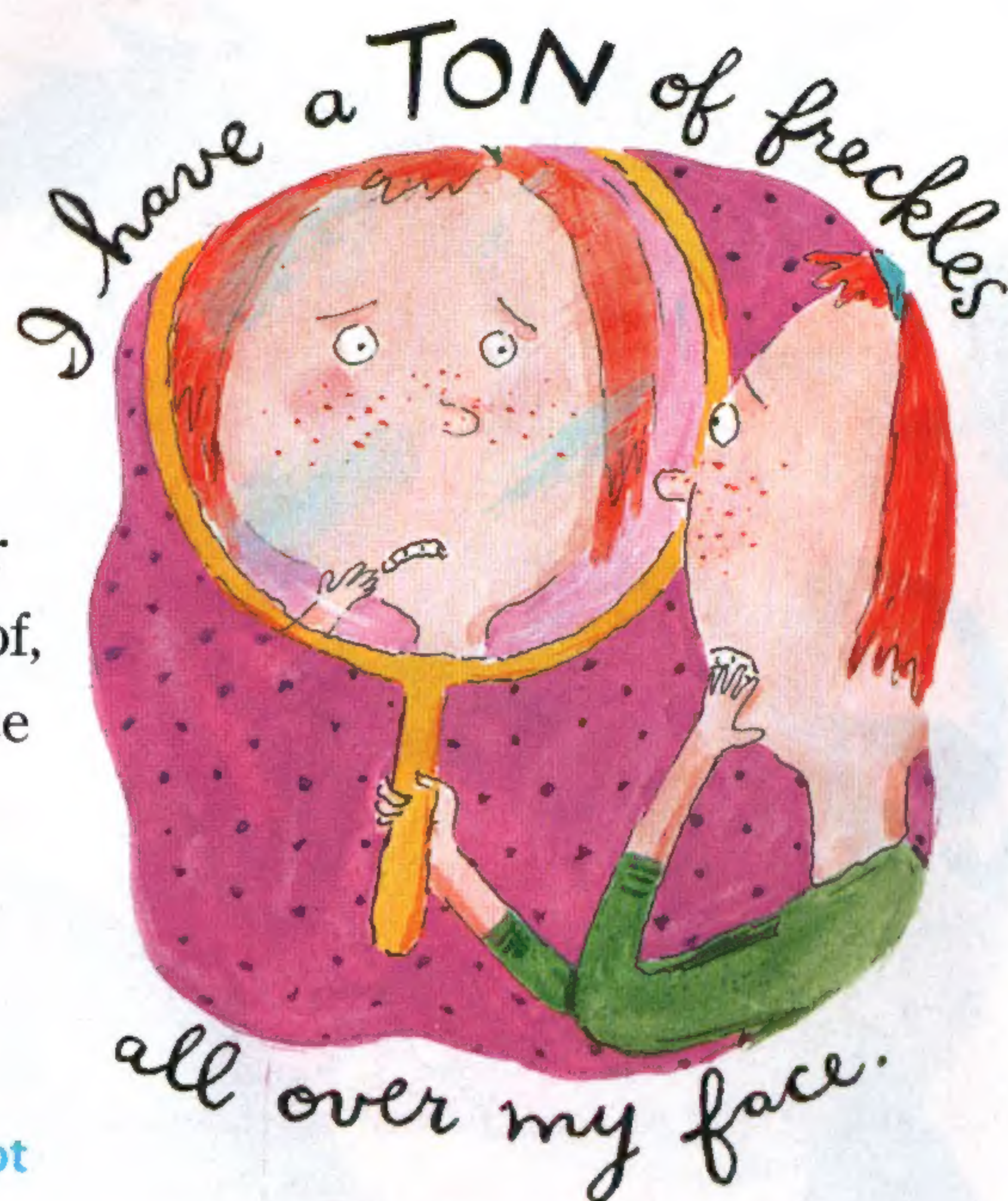


Dear American Girl,

I recently helped out at a church event with one of my good friends, only to find out that she was impossible to work with! Should I tell her about the problem? If so, how?

### Not a co-worker!

It's not worth complaining to your friend now. But if you need to work with her again, set the rules up front. Make sure that you agree on



who will do what and that you know clearly what is expected of you. Ask for direction from the adults in charge. If you find yourselves bickering, try to sort things out calmly without blaming each other. Finally, don't forget that saying "please" and "thank you" can make working together nicer, too.



Dear American Girl,

My parents always drag my sister and me to concerts. But they're not rock concerts—they're concerts of music from different countries. My parents are doing this to teach us, but I never learn anything! Not having fun!

You'll have more fun at the concerts if you know what to expect. Find the

musicians' country on a map and see how far they have to travel to get to your town. Will they play an instrument that you've never heard before? Is the music you'll hear usually played for special events? The more you know about the music, the more likely you'll be to enjoy it. Keep an open mind and you might have a good time at these concerts. Who knows? You might even start looking forward to them.



### Advice from You

"If you are stressed about your homework, it might mean that you strive for perfection. You need to realize that nobody can be perfect. Be neat with your homework, but don't flip out if you get one thing wrong."

Wei Wei M.

Age 12, Washington

Need advice? Got advice? Write:  
Help!

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562





Author Megan McDonald is doing a book tour this fall! To see if she's coming to your town, check out the Special Events section of "Fun for Girls" on [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com).



Allison C., Sierra G., and Tatum T. had oodles of fun making their own tiny totes.



# Behind the Scenes

Great ideas fell like fall leaves during this issue of *American Girl*!

We loved reading your clever fiction contest entries. Here are some of our favorite places you wrote about Leah walking in wearing pajamas:



Want to see what a typical day is like for Melmel N., Reagan W., and Hannah J. from "I ♥ My School"? Go to [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) and click on "Fun for Girls" to see their unique school schedules.

1. The Country Music Awards



2. Her cousin's wedding ceremony (where she was supposed to be the flower girl!)



3. On a stage while giving a speech to the president!



Get a double dose of doodles! Go to [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) and click on "Fun for Girls" to get more doodles to do.

Go to "Fun for Girls" on [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) and print out game cards for the "Super '70s Party."

Phoenix B. is not only a talented knitter but a talented ballerina as well. She even knitted her own legwarmers.





## Family Fun

Take a quiz with your mom, cousin, or grandpa at your next get-together!

## Snowless Snowpeople

See the clever creations made by girls like you.

# American Girl

Coming up in the November/  
December issue



## Merry Birthday

Girls with holiday birthdays share ways to keep their day special.

## Made with Love

Make bright, beautiful books to give as gifts!

## Get Together

Sweet ways to spend time with friends around the holidays.





# AG's Super Seventies Stickers

Use these super-cool stickers on your stuff!



Illustrations: Stacy Peterson

## 5 Great Ways to Use These Stickers:

1

Decorate invitations for your Super Seventies Party.



2

Send thank-you notes to your party guests.



4

Did your mom or dad grow up in the 1970s? Make one of them a card that's a blast from the past!



3

Make a scrapbook page with photos from your party.



5

Make your notebook groovy! ★